

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

Mr. Morris offered a resolution to the following effect:

*Resolved*, That the select committee on slaves, &c. be instructed to enquire into the expediency of appropriating the revenue arising from slaves, free negroes, and mulattoes, to the abolition of slavery.

Mr. FAULKNER moved to lay the resolution on the table. The propriety of the course would, he thought, strike every gentleman.

Mr. BRODNAX said, he hoped the resolution would be promptly rejected. He would not deign to argue it. He would not consent that it should be laid on the table, whence it was liable to be called up at any moment. He called for the ayes and noes, which were ordered.

After a few words from Mr. FAULKNER, Mr. MORRIS withdrew the resolution.

Mr. GOODE offered the following:

*Resolved*, That the select committee, raised on the subject of slaves, free negroes, and the melancholy occurrences growing out of the tragical massacre in Southampton, be discharged from the further consideration of all petitions, memorials, and resolutions, which have for their object the manumission of persons held in servitude under the existing laws of this commonwealth, and that it is not expedient to legislate on the subject.

Mr. RANDOLPH moved to amend the resolution of Mr. Goode, by striking therefrom the whole after the word Southampton, and insert in lieu thereof the following—“be instructed to enquire into the expediency of submitting to the vote of the qualified voters in the several towns, cities, boroughs, and counties of this Commonwealth, the propriety of providing by law, that the children of all female slaves who may be born in this State on or after the 4th July, 1840, shall become the property of the Commonwealth, the males at the age of 21 years, and females at the age of 18 years, if detained by the owners within the limits of Virginia, until they shall respectively arrive at the ages aforesaid, to be hired out until the nett sum arising therefrom, shall be sufficient to defray the expense of their removal beyond the limits of the U. States, and that said Committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.”

Mr. GOODE addressed the house in a very earnest and emphatic style, in support of his resolution.

Mr. BAXCE, of Frederick, briefly expressed his hostility to both resolutions, and that he was opposed and instructed to oppose, any scheme of abolition desired, that the Committee might report.

Mr. MOORE followed in opposition to the resolution, and in decided support of the abolition of slavery, the

curse of which he exhibited by a variety of strong and interesting views.

Mr. BOLLING succeeded Mr. Moore, in opposition to the resolution of Mr. Goode, and commanded the attention of the House in the delivery of a speech replete with fine thoughts, wise reflection, and generous sentiment.

Mr. RANDOLPH next took the floor, and eloquently supported his resolution, and depicted the necessity of acting, but through the instrumentality of public opinion in the first place.

When he had concluded,

On motion of Mr. GHOLSON, the resolutions were, for the present, laid on the table, and the House then adjourned.

FROM THE RICHMOND WHIG.

*The Great Question.*—Yesterday Mr. Goode offered a resolution to discharge the Select Committee from the further consideration of the branch of inquiry, touching abolition, submitted to them. Mr. Randolph offered an amendment, which may be seen under the proper head; and these propositions have at once brought on a debate on the whole question of slavery, and its evils, physical and moral. That debate we shall lay before the reader as speedily as we may, and seldom have we heard one more ably conducted, and never one involving consequences of such deep, vital, and enduring import.

When we, who have so long experienced the restraints imposed by public opinion on this subject; who have dared to exercise the freedom of the press, guaranteed to us by the godlike fathers of the Republic, but did not, could not, dare to breathe a syllable on a subject ever nearest our hearts, and of transcendant moment to the country; when we, who know so well at how hopeless and impracticable distance even the *consideration* of the subject was deemed six months ago; when we see the General Assembly of Virginia actually engaged, with open doors, in the discussion of the evils of slavery, and the propriety and practicability of abolition—we can hardly believe the evidence of our own senses. Yet so it is. Short-sighted are we all, and none can tell what an hour may bring forth.

*Retrospect at the cause.*—It argues, either a want of candor, or a deficiency of observation, to ascribe the legislative movement, or the thoughts which at this moment absorb public attention, to **Nat Turner** and his assassins. That the affair of August is the *proximate* cause; that it was that which took off the injunction of secrecy of fifty years—that it was that which threw open the columns of the Public Press, and the portals of the General Assembly to open discussion, and unrestrained enquiry, is true. But, as well may it be said that the battle of Lexington was the first cause of the American Revolution, as that the massacre of Southampton was the primary cause of the sentiments of abolition which the tongues of men now freely and unequivocally avow. No! the primary causes of the present agitation are more remote, more pervading, more profound, and more honorable to the Virginia Public. The thoughts now, for the first time, publicly avowed, have long lain dormant in the Public mind. The time had not come for their open avowal. In the favorite phrase of Napoleon, “the pear was not ripe.” Mistaken wisdom, and false calculation, had invested the subject with a sanctity, which it was considered treason to public safety to violate. In a free land, with a free Press, one subject was prohibited, and guarded from free discussion, with Turkish jealousy. Nat Turner, and the blood of his innocent victims, have conquered the silence of fifty years. Exposed to the danger of having the throats of their wives and children cut any night in the year, men have broken the chains which a morbid sensibility imposed upon their tongues and their hands. Imprisoned for years by this unreasonable jealousy, the thoughts of men have burst forth, with a warmth and vivacity, proportioned to the long previous confinement. Thus far and no farther, have Nat Turner and his bloody deeds been instrumental in shaping events. The imputation of unmanly *fear*, inspired by the horrors of August, was eloquently repelled in the debate yesterday on Mr. Goode’s resolution, (by Mr. Bolling) and is an unjust reflection upon the friends of active measures.

FROM THE WHIG OF JANUARY 13.

In the House of Delegates yesterday, an effort was made to preclude farther debate on the resolution offered by Mr. Goode, to discharge the Committee, and declaring it inexpedient to legislate on the subject of Slavery, and Mr. Randolph’s substitute thereto. Both sides of the House voted against the attempt to arrest debate, six only being opposed to taking up the resolutions. When taken up, Mr. Gholsen, who was entitled to the floor, spoke for upwards of two hours in support of the resolution to discharge, and in reply to gentlemen who had preceded him. He was followed by Mr. Rives, who sustained Mr. Randolph’s substitute in a bold, manly, and concise argument. The House then adjourned.

The termination of the debate, and the result, we shall not attempt to conjecture. The incalculable weight of the question, and the deep excitement which it has occasioned, will multiply disputants and prolong discussion. Originally sought by one side, and subsequently demanded by the other, the debate will not stop probably, until the mighty question which it involves, is explored in all its bearings.

FROM THE WHIG OF JAN. 14.

DEBATE ON GOODE’S RESOLUTION.

The Debate in the House of Delegates, on the engrossing and momentous subject, so suddenly brought before it, was yesterday continued by Messrs. Brodnax and