

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 16, 1864.—Ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. McMULLIN.]

A RESOLUTION

Upon the subject of peace.

1 WHEREAS, According to the Declaration of Independence of
2 the United States and the Constitution of the Confederate
3 States, the people of each of said states, in their highest sover-
4 eign capacity, have a right to alter, amend or abolish the gov-
5 ernment under which they live, and establish such other as they
6 may deem most expedient: *and, whereas*, the people of the sev-
7 eral Confederate States have thought proper to sever their po-
8 litical connection with the people and government of the Unit-
9 ed States, for reasons which it is not needful here to state; *and*,
10 *whereas*, the people of the Confederate States have organized
11 and established a distinct government for themselves; *and*,
12 *whereas*, because the people of the Confederate States have
13 thus exercised their undoubted right in this respect, the people
14 and government of the United States have thought proper to
15 make war upon them: *and, whereas*, there seems to be a differ-
16 ence of opinion on the part of the respective governments and
17 people as to which of the contending parties is responsible for
18 the commencement of the present war. Therefore,

1 *Resolved*, That, whilst it is not expedient, and would be in-
2 compatible with the dignity of the Confederate States, to send
3 commissioners to Washington city, for the purpose of securing
4 a cessation of hostilities, yet it would be, in the judgment of this
5 body, eminently proper that the House of Representatives of
6 the Confederate States should despatch without delay, to some
7 convenient point, a body of commissioners, thirteen in number,
8 composed of one representative from each of said states, to
9 meet and confer with such individuals as may be appointed by
10 the Government of the United States, in regard to all the out-
11 standing questions of difference between the two governments,
12 and to agree, if possible, upon the terms of a lasting and hon-
13 orable peace, subject to the ratification of the respective govern-
14 ments and of the sovereign states respectively represented
15 therein.