PUBLIC ACTS

Passed during the first Session of the Thirty-first Congress,

COMMONLY CALLED

THE COMPROMISE BILLS;

CONSISTING OF

THE TEXAS BOUNDARY BILL; BILLS ESTABLISHING TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR NEW MEXICO AND UTAH; THE FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL; THE BILL TO ADMIT CALIFORNIA;

AND

THE BILL TO PROHIBIT THE SLAVE TRADE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

Together with the Votes thereon by Congress.

MONTGOMERY:
PRINTED AT THE "ALABAMA JOURNAL" JOB OFFICE.
1851.

ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS :—As but few of the newspapers publish the laws passed by Congress, it has been thought proper that the bills passed at the last session, in relation to the Territorial Goverments of New Mexico and Utah, the settlement of the boundary line between New Mexico and Texas, the admission of California as a State, and the Fugitive Slave Bill, should be published in pamphlet form and distributed, in order that the people might read for themselves, and thereby be enabled to determine whether these laws, all of which are admitted to be constitutional, are such as to justify resistance, and thereby bring about a dissolution of this Union.

It is an easy matter for the careful observer to determine what will be the future action of the Southern States in relation to recent acts of Congress. The battle has been fought—the struggle which commenced at the begining of the late session of Congress, and which placed in imminent danger the Union of these States and the best Government on earth, has at last ended honorably for the South. The crisis has been passed, the Union saved, and harmony and good feeling will again prevail.

Of our Southern friends who think it their duty to oppose these measures of Congress, we have nothing to say. We take it for granted they are satisfied with their course. The high privilege and right belongs to all to think and act for themselves. But now that these bills have passed, some ask, what will the South do ?—What will Alabama do ?

We are well satisfied that a large majority, in nearly all the Southern States, approve the most of what has been done, and that they *will acquiesce* in the action of Congress. That such is the position of Alabama, we have no doubt. She will not resist but stand by the constitutional laws of the land. Why should the South resist ? Is it because of the passage of the New Mexico bill ? Certainly that cannot be the reason, for this bill asserts the doctrine of *non-intervention*, allowing us to carry our slaves into any part of that Territory and holding them as slaves, and gives to the South every right for which she has ever contended. Is it because of the adoption of the Utah bill ? We think not, because the cherished doctrine of the South of *non-intervention* is again asserted in that bill, and slaves may be carried into that Territory, as well *North* as South of 36 deg. 30 min. These bills are free from all taint of the Wilmot Proviso. Then, the passage of the New Mexico and Utah Bills is not sufficient cause for forcible resistance—and *forcible resistance* will effect a dissolution of the Union.

Is it because Congress has passed a bill called the Texas Boundary Bill, submitting to that State a proposition to fix her Northern boundary upon a specific line, and in the event that Texas accepts the proposition; and transfers to the General Government all her treritory North of that line, that then the United States is to pay the State of Texas $10,000,000 ? This was the most dangerous question of them all. If satisfactory to Texas, it should and will be satisfactory to the other States.

But the admission of California, as a free State, appears to be the principal objection with some ; and for this reason they would have rejected the whole plan of adjustment. We admit the force of some of the objections urged to her admission, and without the passage of other bills settling this question, we would not have favored

her admission, although we believe it constitutional.

There appears no objection from any Southern man to the Fugitive Slave Bill. After the Wilmot Proviso has been repeatedly voted down by Congress—after these important bills to the South (the New Mexico, Utah, and Fugitive Slave Bills,) have passed, also the Texas Bill, the right to settle which belongs to Texas and not us—we ask, after all this has been done, and the whole question has been settled, will the people of Montgomery county—will the people of Alabama, resist on this account? We answer, No! We have too much faith in the good judgment of the people to believe for a moment that they will pursue such a course, and therefore endanger, if they do not destroy, the Union.

We hold such a Union, fraught with such blessings, ought not to be endangered, except for grave and important considerations. If it should be dissolved, the last hope of the friends of republican liberty will be swept away, and the last great effort at self-government will become a byeword and a reproach among the tyrants and despots of the old world. As patriots, we see no good cause for encountering such consequences on account of any thing which has yet transpired,

T. T. HOLT,
E. C. HANNON,
W. C. BIBB,
J. P. CAFFEY.