COL. BENTON'S GREAT SPEECH!

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE!

DELIVERED AT THE CAPITOL, OF THIS STATE,

On Saturday and Monday, the 19th and 21st of May, 1849,

From the General Assembly of Missouri, adopting the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were ordered to be printed by the Senate, and by the House of Representatives, and to be laid before the people at the ensuing election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Members of Congress, and Members of the General Assembly, to be chosen on the first Monday in August next:

CITIZENS:—I have received from the Secretary of State, a copy of the Preamble and Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, after which followed the adjournment of Congress, and which, by the terms of the Preamble and Resolutions, are to be laid before you at the ensuing election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Members of Congress, and Members of the General Assembly. Being a candidate for the office of Governor, I am one of those to whom the Preamble and Resolutions are to be submitted; and, in conformity with the resolve to adopt,

I have concluded to publish my answer, and to do it in the form of a speech, delivered from the Capitol, in order that it may be preserved in a durable form, and be more widely circulated. I have also concluded to publish it in pamphlet form, and to send a copy to each county in the State, for the use of the people, and to be kept for reference.

The Preamble and Resolutions are a declaration of war against me, and against the Democracy of Missouri, for opposing the Wilmot Proviso, and the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia, and for maintaining the rights of the South in the Territories. What I did is necessary to vindicate the character of Missouri, and to maintain the ground which she has occupied in public opinion, if she intends continue to be a Democratic State. I did no more than my duty, and the duty of every Democrat in the State, and of every citizen of every State to resolve to do. To oppose the Wilmot Proviso, and the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia, is the duty of every Democrat in the Union, and of every citizen of every State to resolve to do. To oppose the Wilmot Proviso, and the Abolition of Slavery in Territories