

DEBATE IN THE SENATE, ON THE MISSOURI QUESTION.

TUESDAY, JAN. 25.

In order to give our readers some idea of the grounds taken in this long and important debate, we propose to give them a speech or two on each side of the question.

Mr. OTIS said it was asserted by gentlemen, that a more grave and portentous question had never been agitated within these walls. This he would not deny; and yet he could not consider it a new question.

If the obligations imposed upon us by the constitution were rigorous to the extent which gentlemen seemed to insist, our situation was indeed deplorable.

In all the discussions of the main question, which had come under his eye, the disputants on each side had placed the constitution in the foreground, and reserved the treaty of cession for subsequent examination.

The constitution was the temple, and the treaty the portion, through which alone they were entitled to admission. In his view of the subject this distinction was extremely material, and he could wish to render it clear.

territory, exempt from the restriction of slavery, or by any other circumstances, these persons have been induced to settle in Missouri, under an expectation of retaining their slaves, it would be repugnant to the principles of equity to disconcert their plans, and liberate the negroes already there.

mission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original states. Among these fundamental principles is found a perpetual canon against involuntary servitude.

munities which the people acquire in a state, or a state from the people. He denied, unequivocally, that what was called the right of self-government in the people or the faculty of making a free constitution, proceeded from the principles of the federal constitution.