

by Wisconsin, be invited upon that day to express their opinion on the matter; and, in case a constitutional convention should be called, that the people in the disputed tract send delegates thereto. These resolutions were adopted by the legislature, and on the 13th of January were approved by Governor Dodge.

The passage of these resolutions gave rise to a decided uproar among the settlements in Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Public meetings were held at Galena, Rockford and Belvidere—Illinois towns in the disputed strip—and resolutions were adopted, declaring in favor of the Wisconsin claim.¹ These culminated in a convention at Rockford, July 6, in which Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone,

¹ It will be seen by Editor Warren's letter to Governor Edwards, *ante*, p. 465, note, that as early as 1829 Judge Doty had worked up a strong popular sentiment in northern Illinois, in favor of the Wisconsin claim. May 25, 1840, there was presented to the United States senate a petition signed by sixty-two citizens of Stephenson county, asking that "Wisconsin" be given those "ancient rights secured to them by the ordinance [of 1787] aforesaid," by the "repeal of so much of the act for the admission of Illinois as conflicts with the ordinance before referred to."—(*Senate Docs.*, No. 225, 26th Cong., 1st sess., vol. vi.) On the same day, the senate received the proceedings of a meeting "of the citizens of Galena and vicinity," held at Galena, May 7, 1840.—(*Ibid.*, Doc. No. 226.) It appears therefrom that a preliminary meeting had been held at the Galena court-house, February 1, Thomas Melvill being appointed chairman of a committee on correspondence, to ascertain the views held on the boundary dispute by the people of northern Illinois. May 1, another meeting was held, and Charles S. Hempstead was appointed to draw up a report, which was laid before the meeting of May 7. This report went over the ground quite thoroughly, from a historical point of view. The report of the committee on correspondence, also submitted, stated that it has been discovered "that an opinion is generally entertained by the inhabitants of these portions of the [disputed] district, that the territory in dispute rightfully belongs to Wisconsin, according to the compact; that it is for the general welfare to be detached from the former [Illinois], and annexed to the latter [Wisconsin]." The meeting thereupon adopted a series of resolutions demanding the admission of Wisconsin to the Union, with the territory in dispute, and inviting the people in each county in northern Illinois to send delegates to a convention to be held at Rockford the first Monday in July following. A committee headed by John Stark was "appointed to address a circular letter to all parts of said tract of country," advising the endorsement of the Wisconsin claim.