

NUMBER 5.

Feb. 2, 1854.

Memorial to Congress relative to Pre-Emption rights to settlers on lands recently embraced in the Military Reserve of Fort Snelling.

Preamble.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled, This Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully sheweth: That on the lands formerly embraced in the Military Reservation of Fort Snelling, in this Territory, and now soon to be offered at Public sale, to the highest bidder, by provision of the late Congress reducing the limits of said Reservation;—many persons have made settlements and improvements, not for any purposes of speculation, but in good faith, as actual settlers, seeking to make homes for themselves and their families, which homes and improvements constitute their entire worldly possessions: That by offering lands so settled, to the highest bidder, this meritorious class is exposed to the merciless cupidity of avaricious speculators; That this class—composed of those who are the pioneers of new countries, making the wilderness to blossom like the rose, and creating demand for the Public Domain—deserve from the General Government the same protection granted by Pre-Emption Laws, to settlers on other Public Lands: We, therefore, your Memorialists, respectfully pray you to so amend your act above-mentioned, as to secure to those who have made settlements in good faith and reside upon these lands, the right to enter, prior to the Public Sale, lands to cover their improvements, at the minimum price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

Prayer.

N. C. D. TAYLOR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
S. B. OLMSTEAD,
President of the Council.

APPROVED—February second, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

W. A. GORMAN.
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
St. Paul, April 4, 1854. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original memorial on file in this office.

J. TRAVIS ROSSER,

Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.