

RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE  
LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
RELATIVE TO

*The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of  
Scott versus Sandford.*

APRIL 15, 1858.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT.

RESOLVES in relation to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in case  
of *Scott versus Sandford*.

*Resolved*, That while the people of Massachusetts recognize the rightful judicial authority of the Supreme Court of the United States in the determination of all questions properly coming before it, they will never consent that their rights shall be impaired, or their liberties invaded, by reason of any usurpations of political power by said tribunal.

*Resolved*, That slavery does not and cannot exist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Resolved*, That all citizens of Massachusetts are citizens of the United States; that all negroes, not aliens, domiciled within her limits are citizens of Massachusetts, and are entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities of citizenship in the courts of the United States and elsewhere.

*Resolved*, That no part of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of *Scott versus Sandford*, is binding, which was not necessary to the determination of that case.

*Resolved*, That in said case there was no cause for the inquiry, on the part of the court, into the constitutionality of the act of Congress of March sixth, eighteen hundred and twenty, known as the Missouri compromise, whereby slavery north of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, in the territory acquired from France, was forever prohibited; that we hold said act to have been constitutional and valid; and that its repeal was unwise, a gross breach of faith, and the source of unmingled injustice and wrong.

*Resolved*, That slavery can exist nowhere, except by positive law; while freedom is the natural condition of man.

*Resolved*, That we regard the doctrine, that the Constitution of the United States protects and maintains slavery in the Territories, as unfounded, monstrous, and a palpable contradiction, since the preamble to that instrument declares that it was formed to "secure the blessings of liberty," not the curse of slavery, "to the people of the United States and their posterity."

*Resolved*, That Massachusetts is unalterably opposed to any extension of the slave territory of the United States, and to any increase of slave representation in Congress by the admission of new States.

*Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolves to the President of the United States, to the governors of each of the States and Territories, and to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 27, 1858.*

Passed.

JULIUS ROCKWELL, *Speaker.*

IN SENATE, *March 27, 1858.*

Passed.

CHARLES W. UPHAM, *President.*

Approved *March 27, 1858.*

NATH'L P. BANKS.

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE, BOSTON, *April 9, 1858.*

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original resolves.

Attest:

OLIVER WARNER,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*