

RESOLVES
OF
THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

Concerning slavery.

MARCH 3, 1847.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLVES concerning the existence and extension of slavery within the jurisdiction of the United States.

Resolved, unanimously, That the legislature of Massachusetts views the existence of human slavery, within the limits of the United States, as a great calamity—an immense moral and political evil, which ought to be abolished as soon as that end can be properly and constitutionally attained; and that its extension should be uniformly and earnestly opposed by all good and patriotic men throughout the Union.

Resolved, unanimously, That the people of Massachusetts will strenuously resist the annexation of any new territory to this Union, in which the institution of slavery is to be tolerated or established: and the legislature, in behalf of the people of this commonwealth, do hereby solemnly protest against the acquisition of any additional territory, without an express provision, by Congress, that there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in such territory, otherwise than for the punishment of crime.

Resolved, unanimously, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolves to each of the Senators and members of the House of Representatives of this commonwealth in the Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *February 27, 1847.*

Passed:

EBENEZER BRADBURY, *Speaker.*

IN SENATE, *February 27, 1847*

Passed:

WILLIAM B. CALHOUN, *President.*

FEBRUARY 27, 1847—Approved.

GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

A true copy.—Attest:

JOHN G. PALFREY,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.