

EXTINCTION OF SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK,

RELATIVE TO

The proclamation of the President of the United States for the extinction of slavery.

MAY 2, 1864.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF NEW YORK, IN ASSEMBLY,
Albany, April 23, 1864.

DEAR SIR: The following preamble and resolutions, reported by the standing committee on federal relations, were this day adopted, and a copy thereof is herewith transmitted to you:

Whereas, in the present crisis of the country, a speedy and successful conclusion of the war should be the chief and controlling purpose of the government, and as such termination of the struggle now progressing to put down an atrocious rebellion of aristocracy against democracy can best be achieved by a final abrogation of the system of African slavery, the foundation of such aristocracy and main support of the rebellion; and whereas the final annihilation of slavery would clear the path of our manifest destiny in developing our resources, and also restore us to the condition of a united people, in which we can declare and enforce the integrity and the exclusive prerogative of democratic institutions on the American continent, as against any invading or usurping foreign power: Therefore,

Resolved, That we, the representatives of the people of the State of New York, do affirm and declare that the proclamation of the President of the United States, decreeing the extinction of human slavery, was not only a necessary, but a wise, statesmanlike, constitutional measure adopted and made the fixed law of the land.

Resolved, That this great truth should be impressed deep in the hearts of our people, and its spirit should pervade the constitutions and laws of all the States; that *free* labor is the corner-stone upon which alone can be erected, with present safety or assurance of permanent stability, a well-regulated, enlightened, and enduring democratic government.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to prepare, and submit for adoption by the legislatures of the several States, such just and proper amendment to the Constitution of the United States as shall forever prohibit and terminate the system of African slavery in the United States.

A true copy from the journal.

J. B. CUSHMAN, *Clerk.*