

## RESOLUTIONS

OF

### THE LEGISLATURE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

AGAINST

*The extension of the institution of slavery, and the further acquisition of foreign territory by the general government; in favor of the right of trial by jury to all persons claimed under the fugitive slave law; and approving the course of the delegation from that State on the bill for the establishment of territorial governments in Nebraska and Kansas.*

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JULY 7, 1854.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE SESSION, A. D. 1854.

*Resolutions concerning the Nebraska bill, &c.*

*Whereas*, the Congress of the United States, at its present session, have passed certain laws for the organization of territorial governments in the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, wherein, by a repeal of the Missouri compromise of 1820, slavery is allowed to extend itself into territories made free by the said act of 1820; and whereas, the passage of the said laws by the said Congress is deemed by this Assembly to be a violation of the public faith pledged by Congress to the whole extent of the power of Congress to pledge the public faith, and greatly impairs the confidence of the people of this State in the integrity and honor of the national government, and that of the States which sustain the institution of slavery within their jurisdictions; therefore—

1. *Resolved*, That the attempt to extend the odious institution of slavery over a vast region of territory from which it has once been by law excluded, with the consent of the slaveholding States, given in the form of a compromise hitherto deemed to be solemnly binding upon all the States of this Union, ought to awaken the people of the free States to the aggressive character of slavery as a political power, and unite them in hostility to its extension and its existence wherever it comes constitutionally within the reach of federal legislation.

2. *Resolved*, That the act of Congress of 1850, known as the fugitive slave law, operating as it does, when enforced in the manner contemplated by its provisions, to deprive man of one of the most sacred rights

which man can enjoy, and to doom him to unmitigated bondage without a trial by jury, is contrary to the spirit of liberty, and ought to be amended or repealed.

3. *Resolved*, That no further acquisition of foreign territory by the general government is, in the opinion of this Assembly, desirable. In no case should territory now free be doomed to slavery by law; nor should slave territory be acquired without giving to such territory all the freedom which the general government, in case of such acquisition, can constitutionally give.

4. *Resolved*, That the course of the delegation in Congress from this State, on the bill for the establishment of territorial governments in Nebraska and Kansas, is entitled to and receives our hearty approval.

5. *Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, to be presented to the Senate and House of Representatives, and also a copy thereof to the governors of each of the States of this Union, with a request that they may be presented to the legislatures thereof.

True copy. Attest :

WM. R. WATSON, *Secretary.*

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,  
*Office of Secretary of State.*

In pursuance of the last of the above resolutions, I hereby transmit a true copy of resolutions passed by the legislature of this State at its recent June session.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said [L. s.] State, at Providence, this third day of July, A. D. 1854.

By order of the Governor :

WM. R. WATSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF REGENTS

OF THE

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

SHOWING

THE OPERATIONS, EXPENDITURES, AND CONDITION OF  
THE INSTITUTION UP TO JANUARY 1, 1854.

AND THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD UP TO JULY 8, 1854.

WASHINGTON:  
BEVERLEY TUCKER, SENATE PRINTER.  
1854.