

SLAVERY.  
RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE  
LEGISLATURE OF CONNECTICUT,  
IN  
*Reference to slavery.*

DECEMBER 16, 1850.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *May Session*, 1850.

Whereas the people of Connecticut have heretofore, through their senators and representatives in General Assembly convened, solemnly and deliberately avowed their purpose to resist, in all constitutional and proper ways, the extension of slavery into the national Territories, and the admission of new slave States into the federal Union, and also to seek, in a peaceable and constitutional way, the abolishment of the slave trade and of slavery in the District of Columbia; and whereas the important questions now before the country touching these matters make it desirable that these convictions and determinations should be reaffirmed in the most solemn and public manner: therefore,

*Resolved*, That Congress has full constitutional power to prohibit slavery in the Territories of the United States by legislative enactment, and that it is the duty of Congress to pass, without unnecessary delay, such strict and positive laws as will effectually shut out slavery from every portion of these Territories.

*Resolved*, That Congress has like full constitutional power to remove slavery and the slave trade from the District of Columbia; and that this power should be at once exercised for the immediate prohibition of the slave trade therein, and for the abolition of slavery upon such terms of compensation to the slaveholders as may be just and reasonable.

*Resolved*, That, in the name of the people of Connecticut, we do hereby solemnly reaffirm our unalterable attachment to the federal Union, and our inflexible determination to adhere to our national constitution, and abide by all its compromises, to the letter and in the spirit of the same; while, with equally unalterable and inflexible purpose, deterred by no threat of disunion, we shall forever oppose any and every measure of compromise by which any portion of the territory now belonging to, or

which may hereafter be acquired by, the United States, shall be given up to, or left unprotected against, the encroachments of slavery.

*Resolved*, That the integrity and permanence of American power on the Pacific ocean, the increase of our commerce and wealth, the extension of our institutions and the cause of human freedom on this continent, require the immediate admission of California into this Union, with her present constitution, and the boundaries therein defined, without any reference to any other question or measure whatever.

*Resolved*, That, inasmuch as the legislation necessary to give effect to the clause of the constitution of the United States relating to the delivering up of fugitive slaves is within the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, we hold it to be the duty of that body to pass such laws only in regard thereto as will secure to all persons whose surrender may be claimed, as having escaped from labor or service in another State, the right of having the validity of such claim determined by a jury in the State where such claim shall be made.

*Resolved*, That the governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of the senators and representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States, who are hereby requested to present the same to the houses to which they respectively belong.

Senate, June 13, 1850.—Passed.

H. J. FULLER,

*Clerk.*

House of Representatives, June 19, 1850.—Passed.

E. S. CLEVELAND,

*Assistant Clerk.*

OFFICE OF SECRETARY STATE,

*Hartford, July 26, 1850.*

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the original resolutions, on file in this office.

JOHN P. C. MATHER,

*Secretary of State.*