

## RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

### LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

INSTRUCTING

*The senators and requesting the representatives of that State in Congress to vote against the admission of another slaveholding State into the Union.*

MARCH 8, 1858.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—*May session, 1857.*

*Resolved*, That as the fathers of American liberty held, so do “we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, *liberty*, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;” that as the fathers of the republic designed to favor no particular class of men, but to establish a government giving equal political rights to all, and the greatest amount of liberty consistent with public safety, we maintain that the great purpose of our national government should be to secure and protect those rights, and make perpetual the blessings of *liberty*.

*Resolved*, That slavery, being contrary to the principles of natural right, founded upon injustice and fraud, at war with the principles upon which our government is founded, injurious to the growth and prosperity of the country, and a reproach to a people professing to love liberty, ought never to receive the national sanction; that while we recognize it as a local institution, maintained by force of the law of the State where it exists, and over which we have no control, and for which we have no responsibility, it is our right and our duty to resist to the last every attempt to extend it into the Territories of the republic.

*Resolved*, That a majority of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the recent case of Dred Scott, in declaring that a

*free negro of the African race, whose ancestors were brought to this country and sold as slaves, is not a citizen within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States, and is not entitled to sue in a court of the United States, and that no State can make him such citizen ; that Congress has no power to prohibit slavery in the Territories ; that every slave-owner may carry his slaves into the Territories and hold them therein as slaves ; that the federal government recognizes slaves as property, and pledges itself to protect it in the Territories, and that the Missouri compromise act was void, when such declarations or opinions were not necessary for the decision of the case before said court, have departed from the usages which have heretofore governed our courts ; have volunteered opinions which are not law ; have given occasion for the belief that they promulgated such opinions for partisan purposes, and thereby have lowered the dignity of said court, and diminished the respect heretofore awarded to its decisions.*

*Resolved, That the resolutions of the general assembly of this State, passed in 1849, declaring that Congress has full constitutional power to prohibit slavery in the Territories of the United States by legislative enactment ; that the people of Connecticut, while abiding by the compromises of the Constitution, and averring their attachment to the federal Union, are unalterably opposed to the extension of slavery into free territory, and the further extension of its influence into the councils of the federal government ; that in resisting the extension of slavery we do not make a sectional issue, nor oppose the interests of the people of the South, express now, as then, the sentiments of the people of Connecticut.*

*Resolved, That the people of Connecticut deeply sympathize with their brethren in the Territory of Kansas in their struggles against the aggressions of slavery, and earnestly desire that they may continue to resist, by all lawful means, until they shall make Kansas a free State.*

*Resolved, That our senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our representatives in Congress are hereby earnestly requested, to vote always, and in every stage of the question, against the admission of another slaveholding State into the federal Union.*

*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.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,  
*Office of Secretary of State.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolutions passed by the general assembly of the State, at its May session, A. D. 1857, on record in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the  
[SEAL.] seal of said State, at Hartford, this fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

ORVILLE H. PLATT,  
*Secretary of State.*