

MISSOURI COMPROMISE AND FUGITIVE-SLAVE LAW.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

PROTESTING

Against the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and urging the repeal of the fugitive-slave law of 1850.

JULY 25, 1854.—Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY SESSION, 1854.

Whereas, in obedience to the spirit of the constitution of the United States, the early policy of the government was to discourage, restrict, and repress slavery; and whereas the national government has been swerved from its original course on this subject; and whereas the compromise of 1820, by which slavery was prohibited in all the territory then held by the United States north of 36 degrees 30 minutes, has been repealed by act of Congress; and whereas it is proper, in view of this calamitous and unexpected event, that the State of Connecticut should proclaim her principles, and the line of policy she proposes to pursue in relation to the subject of slavery: Now, therefore,

Resolved by this assembly, in the name and in behalf of the people of this State, that we still cherish the great principles of the constitution, and, based upon these principles, the union of these United States.

Resolved, That the federal constitution, ordained to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, and to secure the blessings of liberty, expressly denies to the general government the power to deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, and that the government, having no more power to establish slavery than to establish a monarchy, should at once proceed to relieve itself from all responsibility for the existence of slavery, wherever it possesses constitutional power to legislate for its extinction.

Resolved, That this general assembly, in view of the fact that the compromises heretofore made on the subject of slavery, by act of Congress, have virtually been repudiated and deprived of their moral force and authority, by the repeal of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri, approved March 6, 1820, do declare their determination to

return to the original policy of the government, founded upon the constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this general assembly, the people of Connecticut demand the repeal of that part of the bill for the organization of the government of Kansas and Nebraska which declares the Missouri compromise inoperative and void, and will persevere in this demand until the restriction of slavery contained in the act of 1820 shall be restored to full force and effect.

Resolved, That the Hon Isaac Toucey, a senator of the State of Connecticut in the Congress of the United States, having, by his vote on the final passage of the bill for the organization of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, disobeyed the solemn and deliberate instructions of the legislature, and disregarded the wishes, the interests, and the principles of the people of this State, deserves to be, and hereby is, censured by this general assembly.

Resolved, That the thanks of the general assembly are hereby tendered to such of our senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States as have opposed, by all legal and constitutional means, and to the last extremity, the passage of the act by which the Missouri compromise has been repealed.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be requested, to introduce into the Congress of the United States, and vote in favor of, such an amendment of the law commonly known as the fugitive-slave law as shall secure to every person claimed under said law the right of trial by jury in the State where such person may be arrested and held to trial.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to our senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States, to be by them laid before that body.

Senate, June 20, 1854.—Passed.

D. B. BOOTH, *Clerk*.

House of Representatives, June 28, 1854.—Passed.

A. GIDDINGS, *Clerk*.

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, NEW HAVEN,
June 29, 1854.

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

O. H. PERRY, *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 2, 1854.

**WASHINGTON:
A. O. P. NICHOLSON, PUBLIC PRINTER.
1854.**