

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF INDIANA,

IN FAVOR OF

*The adoption of measures for the suppression of the African slave trade,  
and the promotion of the colonization of free people of color.*

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MAY 19, 1852.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

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THE STATE OF INDIANA.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO.

A JOINT RESOLUTION on the subject of the slave trade, and for the purpose of colonization.

Whereas, considerations of philanthropy and patriotism alike demand an earnest effort to suppress the African slave trade, so long a reproach to the christian world, and a base outrage upon an unfortunate race of our fellowmen; and whereas, the praiseworthy efforts heretofore employed for that purpose have proved ineffectual; therefore,

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,* That it is the judgment of said General Assembly that some other and more efficient policy should be adopted on that subject.

*Resolved, further,* That it is the judgment of said General Assembly that it is the duty of the government of the United States of America, as the leading nation of the world, in advancing and maintaining the cause of civil and religious liberty, and ameliorating the unfortunate condition of mankind every where, by all proper and lawful means to use the necessary powers to crush effectually this revolting piracy.

*Resolved, further,* That reason dictates, and experience has shown, that this crime against our race and the just laws of God can be more certainly put down than by any plan heretofore tried, by the planting and rearing to maturity and power colonial States upon the African coast, with republican forms of government, from the free black population of the United States; and that it is the duty of the Congress of the United States, and of the legislature of each of the States of this Union, to enact such laws in harmony with each other, as would promote a general system of colonization, not only for the purpose of suppressing the African slave trade, but also to separate, as far as possible, the white and the black race upon this continent,—by sending off, where they might consent to it, all colored persons in the United States, except those who may be held to service, to such colonial

States, without cost, and providing for their comfort there for a reasonable period afterwards; thus making some compensation to an injured race for the wrongs and oppressions of ages, and relieving ourselves from a population which, although among, can never be of us in social or political rights; and for that cause are at all times liable to become a source of public charge and of public annoyance in each State where they may reside, and of causing irritation and bad neighborhood in the feelings of the States themselves.

*Resolved, further,* That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to use their efforts to procure the passage of laws by the Congress of the United States, and that all the sister States of this Union be likewise earnestly requested to co-operate, by similar laws, for the promotion of the foregoing objects.

*Resolved, further,* That the governor forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and representatives in Congress, to the governors of all the States in the Union, and to the heads of the leading colonization societies in the United States; and that he be requested to open a correspondence with such societies, and other persons, within his discretion, who may be devoted to the objects aforesaid, with a view to elicit information generally upon the subject, and especially to obtain plans best calculated to promote the objects above contemplated. And that he be further requested to lay such information before the General Assembly of this State, at its next annual meeting, with such recommendations touching them and the cause of colonization, as to him shall seem advisable.

JOHN W. DAVIS,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JAMES H. LANE,

*President of the Senate.*

Approved March 4, 1852.

JOSEPH A. WRIGHT.

*State of Indiana, to wit :*

I, Charles A. Test, Secretary of State for the State aforesaid, certify that the foregoing is a true, full, and complete copy of an enrolled act now on file in my office.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of [L. s.] State at Indianapolis, this 8th day of March, A. D. 1852.

CHARLES H. TEST,

*Secretary of State.*