

RESOLUTIONS
OF
THE LEGISLATURE OF TEXAS

ON

The subject of slavery.

APRIL 23, 1850.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

RESOLUTIONS of the legislature of the State of Texas on the subject of slavery.

Resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas, That the territories of the United States belong to the several States composing the Union, and are held by them as their joint and common property.

Resolved, That Congress, as the joint agent and representative of the Union, has no right to make any law, or do any act whatever, that shall, directly or by its effects, make any discrimination between the States of this Union by which any of them shall be deprived of its full and equal right in any territory of the United States, acquired or to be acquired.

Resolved, That the enactment of any law which should, directly or by its effects, deprive the citizens of any of the States of this Union from emigrating with their property into any of the territories of the United States, would make such discrimination, and would, therefore, be a violation of the constitution and the rights of the States from which such citizens emigrated, and in derogation of that perfect equality which belongs to them as members of the Union, and would tend directly to subvert the Union itself.

Resolved, That, as a fundamental principle in our political creed, a people, in forming a constitution, have the unconditional right to form and adopt the government which they may think best calculated to secure liberty, prosperity, and happiness; and that, in conformity thereto, no other condition is imposed by the federal constitution on a State, except that its constitution be republican; and that the imposition of any other by Congress would not only be in violation of the constitution, but in direct conflict with the principle upon which our political system rests.

Resolved, That the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, involving, as it does, an exercise of power not granted by the constitution, and designed, as it is, as a means of affecting the institution of slavery in the States, and against which it is aimed as a blow, should be resisted on the part of the South, by whatever means are best adapted to the protection of the constitution, the defence of herself, and the preservation of the Union.

Resolved, That, knowing no party names or political divisions upon questions involving, in their nature and consequences, the character, property, and political existence of those we represent, we are prepared to make common cause with our sister States of the South in defence of the federal constitution ; that, our rights being identical, we will cordially cooperate with the rest of the South in any measure of defence of our constitutional rights that may be best calculated to preserve their integrity.

Resolved, That the governor be required to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the governor of each of the States of the Union, and to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

Approved January 30, 1850.

STATE OF TEXAS, SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
Austin, March 12, 1850.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are correct copies of resolutions on file in this office.

JAMES WEBB,
Secretary of State.