

SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF CONNECTICUT,

RELATIVE TO

Slavery in the Territories and District of Columbia.

JANUARY 28, 1850.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
General Assembly, May session, 1849.

Whereas his Excellency, the governor, has submitted to the consideration of this General Assembly certain resolves of the legislatures of Virginia, South Carolina, and Missouri, in which the power of Congress to legislate on the subject of slavery in the Territories of the United States and in the District of Columbia is explicitly and positively denied :

And whereas many persons residing in the slaveholding States show a settled intention to force the establishment of slavery in the Territories of New Mexico and California, and to perpetuate its existence in the District of Columbia :

And whereas, in view of all these facts, we regard it as the duty of each State in the Union to proclaim its opinions on the momentous subjects in question in the most public and solemn manner to the other members of the confederacy, and to the world : Now, 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 the Territories of New Mexico and California.

Resolved, That the existence of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia is a national disgrace, which Congress has full constitutional power to remove, and that Congress should use this power without unnecessary delay.

Resolved, That this General Assembly, for and in behalf of the people of Connecticut, hereby publicly and solemnly avow their determination to adhere to, and abide by, the compromises contained in the constitution of the United States relating to slavery to the letter, and in the spirit of the same; but that they will oppose, in all constitutional and proper ways,

any and every measure of compromise by which any portion of our free territory may be given up to the encroachments of slavery.

Resolved, That this General Assembly, for and in behalf of the people of Connecticut, while solemnly declaring their purpose to use every constitutional and proper effort to resist the extension of slavery into the Territories, and the further extension of its influence into the councils of the federal government, do as solemnly avow their attachment to the federal Union, and their determination to stand by its integrity at all hazards, and to the last moment.

Resolved, (in the language of North Carolina,) That we believe the people of Connecticut, of all parties, are devotedly attached to the Union of the United States; that they regard it as a main pillar in the edifice of real independence; the support of tranquillity at home—of peace abroad; of safety, of prosperity, and of that very liberty they so highly prize; that they cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it, and that they watch for its preservation with jealous anxiety; that they believe it is the duty of their public servants to discountenance whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can, in any event, be abandoned, and to “repel indignantly every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.”

Resolved, That in resisting the extension of slavery, we do not make a sectional issue, or oppose the interests of the people of the South; inasmuch as a very large majority of the white inhabitants of the slaveholding States are non-slaveholders, who need, and should enjoy, the privilege of emigrating to the new Territories without being followed by an institution which is every way hostile to freedom, and which so effectually contributes to degrade the toil and debase the life of the free laborer.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress are hereby strictly instructed, and that our representatives in Congress are earnestly requested, to vote, in every stage of the question, in favor of the incorporation of the fundamental principles of the Jeffersonian ordinance of 1787 into any acts of Congress establishing Territorial governments over New Mexico and California; to vote always, and in every stage of the question, for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia; and to vote always, and in every stage of the question, against the admission of another slaveholding State into the federal Union.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 19, 1849.—Passed.

C. W. PHILLEO, *Clerk*.

SENATE, June 20, 1849.—Passed.

H. B. GRAVES, *Clerk*.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
Hartford, December 1, 1849.

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

ROGER H. MILLS,
Secretary of State.