

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MAINE,

Disapproving of any interference with the subject of Slavery in any of the States by the General Government.

APRIL 8, 1836.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Resolve relating to the discussion of slavery in the State of Maine.

Resolved, That the United States Government is a Government of enumerated, limited, and defined powers, all which are set forth in the constitution; and that all powers not granted in that instrument are reserved to the States and to the people.

Resolved, That the power of regulating slavery within the confines of a State was not granted, and therefore does not exist in the General Government.

Resolved, That, excepting so far as they are united for certain and defined purposes, the States forming the confederacy of the United States, are, with respect to each other, distinct and sovereign States, each having a separate and independent Government, the action of which, under the limitations of the constitution of the United States, and within the confines of the State, is not to be questioned by any power save the people of that State; and that any interference by a State, or by the inhabitants of a State, with the domestic concerns of another State, tends to break up the compromises, and disturb the harmony of the Union, and should be discountenanced by every good citizen.

Resolved, That, in Maine, the discussion of the question of the abolition of slavery having been arrested by the decided expression of public disapprobation, and no abolition paper being printed within the borders of the State, legislation on the subject is inexpedient.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward a copy of this report and these resolutions to the Executives of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, and to the Executive of each of the other States, with a request that they be communicated to their respective Legislatures.