

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO,

IN FAVOR OF

The prohibition of slavery in Territories of the United States, and the immediate admission of Kansas into the Union as a State.

MAY 5, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF OHIO.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS relative to Kansas affairs.

Whereas, the original policy of our country contemplated no extension of slavery beyond the limits of slave States, and no increase of the number of such States; and whereas experience has sufficiently proven that every departure from that policy has been productive of evil, and of evil only; and whereas, by the repeal of the slavery prohibition of the Missouri compromise, the whole question of slavery, in its relation to the Union, the States, and the Territories, has been reopened; and whereas the people of Kansas, deprived of the protection of that prohibition, and despoiled by armed invasion of their undoubted right to elect their own representatives, have been compelled to choose between the alternatives of resort to the inherent right of every community, in the absence of valid laws, to provide for its own safety and good order, or submission to the unauthorized edicts of a pretended legislature, seeking to compel the admission of slavery by appointing its own creatures to all territorial offices, whether executive or judicial, and by imposing such restrictions upon the right of suffrage at future elections as will exclude the opponents of slavery from the polls; and whereas the people of Kansas, properly adopting the former alternative, have proceeded to elect a delegate to Congress, and to form for themselves a State constitution with a view to application for admission into the Union; and whereas it is the duty, in the judgment of this general assembly, of the federal government, and of the people of the several States, to unite their efforts to save the Territory of Kansas from the renewal of civil tumult, and from the further shedding of blood: Be it therefore—

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That the cause

of the people of Kansas, engaged in defending themselves against lawless violence and in asserting their inherent right of self-government, be and hereby is earnestly commended to the warm sympathies of the people of Ohio.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and representatives requested, to oppose all acts and measures which tend to recognise as legal and binding any of the acts of the pretended legislature of Kansas, held at Shawnee Mission.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and representatives requested, to use their best endeavors for the immediate passage of an act of Congress admitting Kansas into the Union as a free State, with such limitation of boundary as by Congress shall be deemed advisable; and in case Congress shall not consent to such admission, then to use their best endeavors to secure the passage of acts enabling the people of that Territory to elect their own governor and other officers, and fully protect them in the exercise of the elective franchise.

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be further instructed, and our representatives requested, to use their best endeavors to secure the passage of laws prohibiting slavery in the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and all territory embraced in the Missouri compromise, and re-establishing the original American policy as declared in the regulation proposed by Thomas Jefferson in 1784 for the exclusion of slavery from all territory ceded, or to be ceded, and of such other laws as shall best fulfil the high duty repeatedly acknowledged by the people of Ohio, of using all power clearly given by the terms of the national compact, to prevent the increase, to mitigate, and finally eradicate the evil of slavery, without encroaching upon, or in any way legislating upon the right of each State to adopt and modify its own municipal laws, to regulate its own internal affairs, and to hold and maintain its equal and independent sovereignty with each and every other State.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to cause a copy of this preamble and resolutions, properly certified, to be forwarded to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, and the governor of each State in the Union.

N. H. VAN VORHES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS H. FORD,

President of the Senate.

APRIL 9, 1856.

STATE OF OHIO.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
Columbus, April 26, 1856.

I, James H. Baker, Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of a preamble and resolutions

passed by the general assembly of this State, copied from the original roll on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand, and affix
[L. s.] the great seal of the State of Ohio, at Columbus, this
26th day of April, A. D. 1856.

JAMES H. BAKER,
Secretary of State.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Columbus, Ohio, April 30, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a preamble and resolutions, passed by the legislature of this State, agreeably to the requirements of said resolutions.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. CHASE,
Governor of Ohio.