

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

Respecting slavery.

AUGUST 14, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Whereas, his excellency the governor has laid before the legislature the following preamble and resolutions from the general assembly of the State of Arkansas, viz:

“Whereas the right of property in slaves is expressly recognized by the Constitution of the United States, and is, by virtue of such recognition, guarantied against unfriendly action on behalf of the general government; and whereas each State of the Union, by the fact of being a party to the federal compact, is also a party to the recognition and garranty aforesaid; and whereas the citizens of each State are, in consequence of such citizenship, under the most sacred obligations to conform to the terms and tenor of the compact to which their State is a party, therefore—

“1. *Be it resolved by the general assembly of the State of Arkansas,* That the legislation of Congress, repealing the Missouri compromise of eighteen hundred and twenty, and asserting the doctrine of non-interference with slavery, alike in States and Territories, is in strict accordance with the Constitution, and in itself just and expedient, and is for these reasons cordially approved by the people of Arkansas.

“2. *Resolved,* That the opposition of the northern States to the legislation above mentioned is at war with the letter and spirit of the Constitution, is grossly violative of plighted faith, and is a traitorous blow aimed at the rights of the south, and the perpetuity of the Union.

“3. *Resolved,* That the citizens of the State of Ohio have pursued a course peculiarly unjust and odious in their fanatical hostility to institutions for which they are not responsible, in their encouragement of known felons, and endorsement of repeated and shameless violations of law and decency, and in their establishment of abolition presses, and circulation of incendiary documents, urging a servile population to bloodshed and rapine; and, by reason of the premises,

it is the duty and the interest of the people of Arkansas to discontinue all social and commercial relations with the citizens of said State, and the same is hereby earnestly recommended as the punishment of past outrages, and a preventive of further aggressions.

“4. *Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit copies of these resolutions to the governors of the several States and Territories of the Union, to be laid before the legislative authorities thereof, and to our senators and representatives in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States,” therefore—

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in general court convened, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the legislature of New Hampshire expressly and distinctly deny that the Constitution of the United States recognizes the right of property in slaves; and, while they admit that the Constitution confers upon Congress no authority to interfere with the subject in the States, they do claim that from all territory, over which Congress have the exclusive power of legislation, they may, and it is their duty to exclude it, and that the doctrine of the slave States, that Congress are restrained from all action unfriendly to slavery in such territory, cannot be sustained.

2. *Resolved*, That the legislature of New Hampshire entirely disagree with the general assembly of the State of Arkansas respecting the repeal of the Missouri compromise of 1820, and believe that the repeal of said compromise was an uncalled for, a most gross and wanton outrage upon the rights, feelings, and sentiments of the people of the free States, and should be condemned by every citizen of every State of this Union as a most perfidious and treacherous violation of public faith and national honor.

3. *Resolved*, That the people of New Hampshire demand, as a right, the restoration of said compromise, and the amendment of the Kansas and Nebraska bill, so called, so as to exclude slavery from said territories, and will never consent to the admission into the Union of any State out of said Territory with a constitution tolerating slavery.

4. *Resolved*, That, while the people of New Hampshire are ardently and affectionately attached to the Union, and will do all in their power to preserve it, consistently with their honor and their rights, they will not, to avoid any crisis, submit to the introduction of slavery into Kansas and Nebraska, consecrated and set apart to free labor, as those territories have been for more than thirty years, by the consent of all the States of the Union.

5. *Resolved*, That all threats of a dissolution of the Union coming from the slave States, unless they are permitted to regulate the policy of the general government on the subject of slavery, have lost all their terrors with the people of New Hampshire, and that they are resolved to demand and enforce their rights in every crisis, and at any sacrifice, consistently with honor and the Constitution.

6. *Resolved*, That it will be in time for the general assembly of Arkansas to complain of the legislation of the free States respecting slavery, when the slave States shall have corrected their own, and

when the lives, liberty, and property of the people of the free States shall be made safe therein.

7. *Resolved*, That the question whether "it is the duty and the interest of the people of Arkansas to discontinue all social and commercial relations" with the people of Ohio, in consequence of conduct of which they disapprove, is one upon which the people of New Hampshire are not at this time called to act, and one which they are willing the people of Arkansas should settle for themselves, *upon their own responsibility*, having no fears that the people of Ohio will be frightened from what they deem *their* duty or interest, by any threats of the kind coming from the State of Arkansas, or any other slave State, and that the people of New Hampshire hereby pledge themselves to the people of Ohio, that they will unite with, and sustain them in all constitutional efforts to resist the further aggressions of the slave power.

8. *Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be, and he hereby is, requested to transmit copies of these resolutions to the governors of the several States and Territories of the Union, to be laid before the legislative authorities thereof; and to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

JOHN J. PRENTISS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM HAILE,
President of the Senate.

Approved July 14, 1855.

RALPH METCALF, *Governor.*

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
Secretary of State's office, Concord, N. H.

I hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of a preamble and resolutions passed by the legislature of this State, copied from the original record now on file in this office.

LEMUEL N. PATTEE,
Secretary of State.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *November 2, 1855.*

SIR: By direction of his excellency the governor, I have the honor to transmit 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,

LEMUEL N. PATTEE,
Secretary of State.