

SLAVERY AND SLAVE-TRADE.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

RELATIVE TO

Slavery and the slave trade.

MARCH 3, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Resolved, That in the present posture of the deliberations of Congress upon the subject of slavery in the Territories of the Union, Massachusetts will fail to do her duty if she do not again utter her sentiments upon the subject of those deliberations.

Resolved, That Congress has full power to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the Territories of the Union; that it has freely exercised such power from the adoption of the constitution to the present time, and that it is its duty to exercise the power for the perpetual exclusion of the institution from those Territories that are free, and for the extinction of the same in Territories where it exists.

Resolved, That, when Congress furnishes governments for the Territories of California and New Mexico, it will be its duty to establish therein the fundamental principle of the ordinance of 1787 upon the subject of slavery, to the end that the institution may be perpetually excluded therefrom beyond every chance and uncertainty.

Resolved, That the slave-trade ought not to exist in the District of Columbia, and it is the duty of Congress immediately to abolish the same.

Resolved, That slavery ought not to exist in the District of Columbia, and that it is the duty of Congress to devise the most just, practicable, and expeditious mode for abolishing the same.

Resolved, That the legislation pointed out in the foregoing resolves does not violate, but pursues, the compromises between the North and South, that secured the adoption of the constitution; and that as our forefathers intended to secure the non-extension of slavery, while they were seeking to establish the Union, so we, their descendants, in seeking to secure the non-extension of slavery, are acting in the very spirit in which that Union was founded.

Mis. No. 62.

Resolved, That his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit copies of these resolves to our senators and representatives in Congress, to be by them laid before the two houses of Congress, as an expression of the sentiments and wishes of the people of Massachusetts.

Passed the House of Representatives February 27th, 1849.

FRANCIS B. CROWNINSHIELD,
Speaker.

Passed the Senate February 27th, 1849.

J. BELL, *President.*

Approved, February 27, 1849.

GEO. N. BRIGGS.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, *February 27, 1849.*

A true copy—Attest:

W. B. CALHOUN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.