

SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT

ON

The subject of slavery.

DECEMBER 31, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS relating to the subject of slavery.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That slavery is a crime against humanity, and a sore evil in the body politic, that was excused by the framers of the federal constitution as a crime entailed upon the country by their predecessors, and tolerated solely as a thing of inexorable necessity.

Resolved, That the so-called "compromises of the constitution" restrained the federal government from interference with slavery only in the States in which it then existed, and from interference with the slave trade only for a limited time, which has long since expired; and that the powers conferred upon Congress by the constitution to suppress the slave trade, to regulate commerce between the States, to govern the Territories, and to admit new States—powers conferred with an express intention "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity"—may all rightfully be used so as to prevent the extension of slavery into territory now free, and to abolish slavery and the slave trade wherever either exists under the jurisdiction of Congress.

Resolved, That our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to resist by all and every constitutional means the extension of slavery in any manner, whether by the annexation to slaveholding Texas of territory now free, or by the admission to the Union of territory already acquired, or which may be hereafter acquired, without an express prohibition of slavery either in the constitution of each new State asking admission, or in the act of Congress providing for such admission.

Resolved further, That our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to support every just and prudent measure for the exclusion of slavery from the District of Columbia; for the entire suppression of the

slave trade on the high seas and wherever else Congress has jurisdiction; and generally to relieve the federal government from all responsibility for the existence, maintenance, or tolerance of slavery, or the traffic in slaves.

Resolved further, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to use their exertions for the speedy organization of a territorial government for New Mexico and California, with a provision forever excluding involuntary servitude, except for crime, therefrom.

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

Approved November 12, 1849.

STATE OF VERMONT.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
Montpelier, November 14, 1849.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are correct copies of resolutions on file in this office.

FERRAND F. MERRILL,
Secretary of State.