
RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MAINE,
IN RELATION TO
Kansas and slavery.

MARCH 25, 1858.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF MAINE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SLAVERY.

Your committee, to which was referred so much of the governor's address as relates to the aggressions of slavery, ask leave to report: That, fully concurring with the governor in his able, truthful and thorough review of the alarming aggressions of the slave power, and of the rapid revolution now on the eve of attempted completion by the national administration, marked by a radical departure from the doctrines of the fathers, aided by the Supreme Court of the United States, in a bold perversion of the Constitution, degrading that charter of liberty to the base uses of slavery extension, and crowned by the President's endorsement of the Kansas usurpation and his adoption of the Lecompton outrage, recommend the passage of the following resolves.

C. W. GODDARD,
E. W. WOODBURY,
J. W. HANSON,
HENRY E. PRENTISS,
T. H. MARSHALL,
HENRY KINGSBURY,
B. PRATT, JR.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES RELATING TO KANSAS AND SLAVERY.

Resolved, That the people of Maine are unalterable in their devotion to the Constitution and the Union, and demand of the national administration an immediate return to the principles on which the Constitution was framed, and by which alone the Union can be preserved.

Resolved, That the Missouri compromise was a solemn compact between the free and slave States ; that its perfidious breach in eighteen hundred and fifty-four deserved, as it received, the universal condemnation of our legislature and people, without regard to party, and such remains the unchangeable conviction of the State.

Resolved, That the reign of the late territorial government in Kansas presents a record of villany and violence unparalleled in modern history, unfolding a gigantic plot to force African slavery upon the freemen of that Territory by the barbarous and bloody edicts of a foreign legislature, sustained throughout by the administration, with its army and territorial judiciary.

Resolved, That the recent message of the President of the United States is a falsification of the history of Kansas, a libel upon the free people of that Territory, and a deep disgrace to the American name, and to the office once filled by Washington.

Resolved, That the President's confession that the late foreign territorial government in Kansas would have been overthrown by the people long before its annihilation in October, unless he had upheld the usurpation by military power, reveals the complicity of the administration in the execrable scheme of governing Kansas by a minority sustained by federal bayonets, setting up a military despotism to "crush out" the free-State majority and the sovereignty of the people ; and his estimate that a standing army of "at least two thousand regular troops" had been found necessary to maintain the equilibrium of parties in that Territory, measures the magnitude of the free State majority—so enormous as to equal in effective power "at least two thousand" of his best "troops."

Resolved, That the President's astounding assertion that "Kansas is at this moment as much a slave State as Georgia or South Carolina" is a monstrous heresy, the slave power's latest commentary on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, and a suggestive example of the operation of the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

Resolved, That, since this is his interpretation of the Constitution and the law, the people of Maine demand of the President its practical recognition, by an immediate withdrawal of the federal army, the territorial governor, and the infamous judiciary, that the "State" of Kansas may be left, like "Georgia or South Carolina," to the government of "State" officers, and to the protection of a "State" militia.

Resolved, That the Lecompton constitution was conceived in fraud and brought forth in contemptuous defiance of the popular will and in mockery of the professions of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, by which alone the iniquity became possible. Maine enters her solemn and indignant protest against the stupendous swindle.

Resolved, That those members of Congress who, at the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, professed a belief in its avowed principle of popular sovereignty, are now loudly called upon to vindicate the sincerity of their professions by repudiating the Lecompton constitution, in which that principle has been shamelessly betrayed.

Resolved, That if that constitution shall finally be forced upon Kansas against the solemn remonstrance of its people, then, in the

opinion of this legislature, they will be justified in resisting it at all hazards and to the last extremity ; and, in so righteous a struggle, the people of Maine are ready to aid them, both by sympathy and action.

Resolved, That the people of Maine have just cause for gratitude and pride that they are now fully represented in both branches of Congress by men who, entertaining and maintaining sentiments and principles in harmony with an immense majority of their constituents, require no specific instructions from this legislature. While their past course meets our approval, it affords us the surest guarantee that they will, to the extent of their ability, strive to avert from our country the impending danger, by resisting to the end the attempted outrage of forcing upon the free people of Kansas a slavery constitution that they abhor, and in the formation of which they have had no part.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to the governors of the several States and Territories, to be laid before the legislatures thereof, and to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 13, 1858.*

Read and passed.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, *Speaker.*

IN SENATE, *March 16, 1858.*

Read and passed.

SETH SCAMMAN, *President.*

Approved March 16, 1858.

LOT M. MORRILL.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
Augusta, March 18, 1858.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original deposited in this office.

NOAH SMITH, JR.,
Secretary of State.