

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 22.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES relating to Slavery.

Resolved, 1. That human slavery is, in all its
2 aspects, an unqualified evil and wrong, and as such
3 merits the reprehension of mankind.

2. That in the early periods of our national his-
5 tory, both the opinions of the people, and the policy
6 of the government, were adverse to the institution.

2. That the constitution of the United States is,
8 and was designed to be, a *charter of liberty*, and
9 hence, that all acts of the national government, by
10 which slavery maintains a legal existence in territory
11 subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of congress, are
12 in direct conflict with the whole spirit and with the
13 clear provisions of that instrument.

4. That the act of the last session of congress,
15 repealing the law of 1820, known as the Missouri
16 Compromise, by which slavery was forever prohibited
17 in the territory north of the parallel of 36 degrees
18 30 minutes, was an unjustifiable violation of a solemn
19 compact, and a flagrant breach of faith on the part of
20 the south.

5. That while Maine unequivocally disclaims all
22 right or intention to interfere with the institution of
23 slavery in those States where it already exists, she
24 will never consent to the admission into the federal
25 Union, of any more States with constitutions author-
26 izing slavery.

6. That the act of 1850, called the Fugitive Slave
28 Law, is unconstitutional, and odious to the whole
29 north; Maine therefore demands its immediate and
30 unconditional repeal.

7. That it is the duty of the general government,
32 without delay, to abolish slavery wherever it has
33 exclusive jurisdiction; and to exert its influence
34 whenever and wherever it legitimately may on the
35 side of universal liberty. Therefore,

RESOLVES CONCERNING SLAVERY. 3

Resolved, That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to use all practicable means to secure the passage of the following enactments:

First, An act repealing all laws of the United States authorizing slavery in the District of Columbia.

Second, An act repealing the statute of 1850, known as the Fugitive Slave Law.

Third, An act forever prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, within the territories of the United States.

Resolved further, That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, at all times hereafter, most strenuously to oppose in every justifiable way, the admission of any new State into the Union, except upon the condition, to be embraced in the act of admission, that slavery or involuntary servitude, excepting that for crime of which the accused shall have been duly proved guilty, shall be forever prohibited therein.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 7, 1855.

ORDERED, That these Resolves be laid upon the table, and 350 copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.

LOUIS O. COWAN, *Secretary.*