

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1858.



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1858.

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# THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.]

[No. 20.]

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SLAVERY.

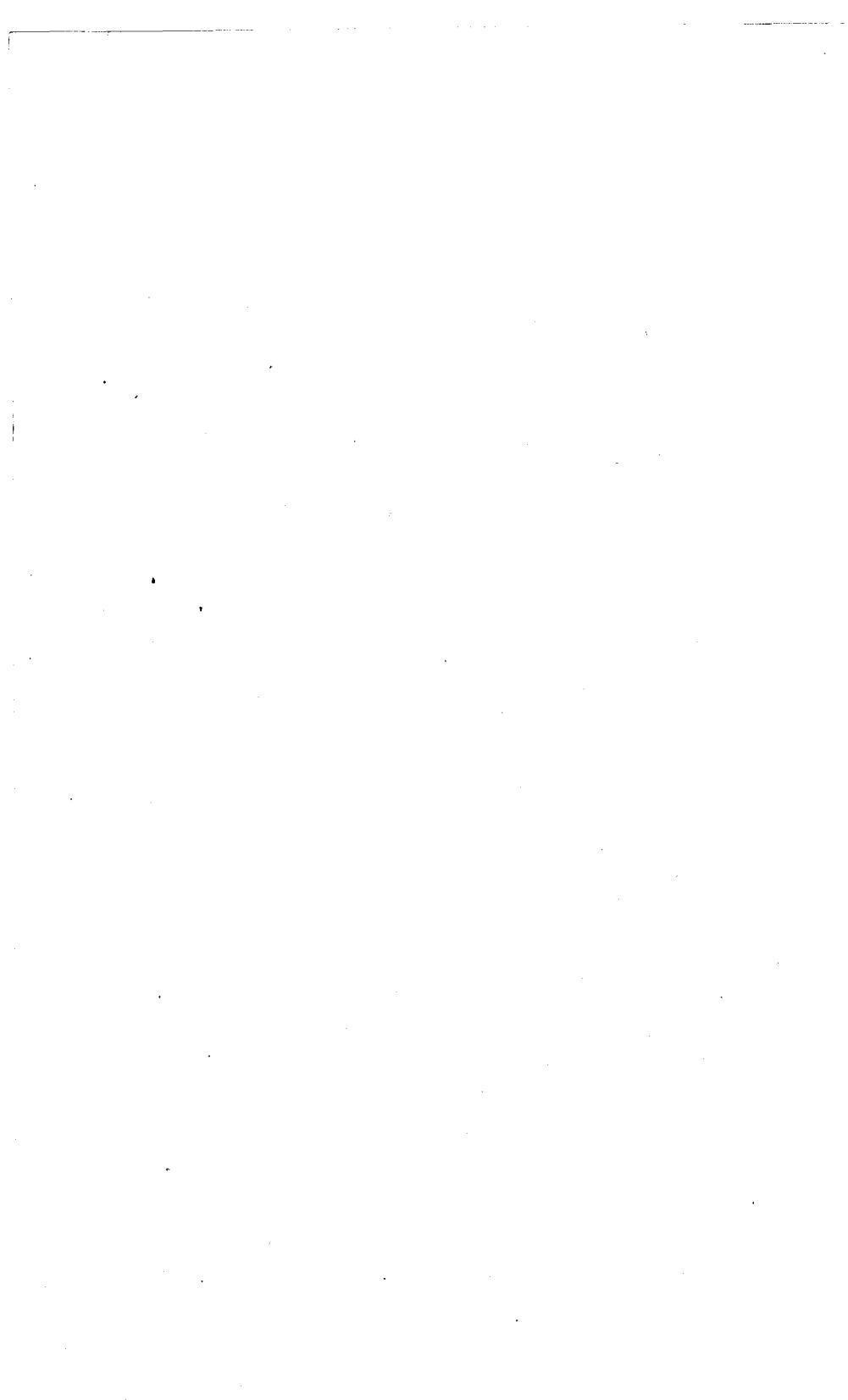
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Your Committee to which was referred so much of the Governor's Address as relates to the aggressions of slavery, ask leave to

### 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.

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### RESOLVES relating to Kansas and Slavery.

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*Resolved,* That the people of Maine are unalterable  
2 in their devotion to the Constitution and the Union,  
3 and demand of the national administration an imme-  
4 diate return to the principles on which the constitu-  
5 tion was framed and by which alone the union can be  
6 preserved.

*Resolved,* That the Missouri compromise was a sol-  
2 emn compact between the free and slave states; that  
3 its perfidious breach in eighteen hundred and fifty-  
4 four, deserved, as it received, the universal con-  
5 demnation of our legislature and people, without  
6 regard to party, and such remains the unchangeable  
7 conviction of the state.

*Resolved,* That the reign of the late territorial gov-  
2 ernment in Kansas presents a record of villany and  
3 violence unparalleled in modern history, unfolding a

4 gigantic plot to force African slavery upon the free-  
5 men of that territory by the barbarous and bloody  
6 edicts of a foreign legislature, sustained throughout  
7 by the administration with its army and territorial  
8 judiciary.

*Resolved,* That the recent message of the president  
2 of the United States is a falsification of the history of  
3 Kansas, a libel upon the free people of that territory,  
4 and a deep disgrace to the American name and to  
5 the office once filled by Washington.

*Resolved,* That the president's confession that the  
2 late foreign territorial government in Kansas would  
3 have been overthrown by the people long before its  
4 annihilation in October, unless he had upheld the  
5 usurpation by military power, reveals the complicity  
6 of the administration in the execrable scheme of gov-  
7 erning Kansas by a minority sustained by federal  
8 bayonets, setting up a military despotism to "crush  
9 out" the free state majority and the sovereignty of  
10 the people; and his estimate that a standing army  
11 of "at least two thousand regular troops" was  
12 necessary to maintain the equilibrium of parties in  
13 that territory, measures the magnitude of the free  
14 state majority—so enormous as to equal in effective  
15 power "at least two thousand" of his best "troops."

*Resolved,* That the president's astounding assertion  
2 that "*Kansas is at this moment as much a slave state*  
3 *as Georgia or South Carolina,*" is a monstrous heresy,  
4 the slave power's latest commentary on the doc-  
5 trine of popular sovereignty, and a suggestive example  
6 of the operation of the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

*Resolved,* That since this is his interpretation of the  
2 constitution and the law, the people of Maine demand  
3 of the president its practical recognition by an imme-  
4 diate withdrawal of the federal army, the territorial  
5 governor and the infamous judiciary, that the "*State*"  
6 *of Kansas* may be left, like "*Georgia or South Caro-*  
7 *lina,*" to the government of "*state*" officers and to  
8 the protection of a "*state*" militia.

*Resolved,* That the Lecompton constitution was con-  
2 ceived in fraud and brought forth in contemptuous  
3 defiance of the popular will and in mockery of the  
4 professions of the Kansas-Nebraska bill by which  
5 alone the iniquity became possible. Maine enters  
6 her solemn and indignant protest against the stupen-  
7 dous swindle.

*Resolved,* That those members of congress who, at  
2 the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, professed a  
3 belief in its avowed principle of popular sovereignty,  
4 are now loudly called upon to vindicate the sincerity

5 of their professions by repudiating the Lecompton  
6 constitution in which that principle has been shame-  
7 lessly betrayed.

*Resolved,* That if that constitution shall finally be  
2 forced upon Kansas against the solemn remonstrance  
3 of its people, then, in the opinion of this legislature,  
4 they will be justified in resisting it at all hazards and  
5 to the last extremity ; and in so righteous a struggle  
6 the people of Maine are ready to aid them both by  
7 sympathy and action.

*Resolved,* That the people of Maine have just cause  
2 for gratitude and pride that they are now fully repre-  
3 sented in both branches of congress by men who, en-  
4 tertaining and maintaining sentiments and principles  
5 in harmony with an immense majority of their con-  
6 stituents, require no specific instructions from this  
7 legislature. While their past course meets our ap-  
8 proval, it affords us the surest guarantee that they  
9 will, to the extent of their ability, strive to avert from  
10 our country the impending danger by resisting to the  
11 end the attempted outrage of forcing upon the free  
12 people of Kansas a slavery constitution that they  
13 abhor and in the formation of which they have had  
14 no part.



*Resolved,* That the governor be requested to forward  
2 a copy of these resolves to the governors of the sev-  
3 eral states and territories, to be laid before the legis-  
4 latures thereof, and to each of our senators and rep-  
5 resentatives in congress, to be laid before the senate  
6 and house of representatives of the United States.

STATE OF MAINE,

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IN SENATE, February 20, 1858.

ORDERED, That 1,000 copies of the foregoing report and resolves  
be printed for the use of the Legislature.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH B. HALL, *Secretary.*