

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1857.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 23, 1820, February 26, 1840,
and March 16, 1842.

AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1857.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1857.

Chapter 110.

Resolve repealing a "Resolve concerning the special laws and resolves."

Resolved, That a "Resolve concerning the special laws and resolves," approved April fourteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, be and is hereby repealed.

Special laws and resolves, resolve concerning, repealed.

[Approved April 15, 1857.]

STATE OF MAINE.

THE Committee, to which was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to Kansas Affairs and Slavery, ask leave to

REPORT:

The purposes and policy of the slave power, as developed within the last few years, have filled the minds of the friends of free institutions with apprehension and alarm. The government of the United States, which was instituted to protect and perpetuate human freedom, has been subverted from its original design, to protect and perpetuate human slavery.

By the original policy of the government, the whole of the national domain was devoted to the purposes of freedom.

In one thousand eight hundred and twenty, by the Missouri compromise act, a part of the national domain was, by implication, at least, conceded to slavery, and now the slave power boldly claims the whole, for its own purposes.

In the earlier and more virtuous days of the republic, slavery was almost universally regarded as a great moral, social and political evil, at war with the common ideas of justice, and the principles upon which our government was founded. Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Patrick Henry, in common with many other illustrious southern men, regarded its abolition as an object of desire. A spirit of toleration was invoked for it, until, by the influences of our free institutions, it should ultimately disappear, and be numbered with the institutions of the past. It was regarded as strictly a local institution, depending for existence upon the force of local laws, and its extension was not expected nor desired.

It existed, in a mitigated form, for some years after the adoption of the constitution, in some of the present free states, but it early disappeared, in obedience to the spirit of the times and the influences of advancing civilization. It was supposed that such would be its fate, at no distant day, wherever it existed in the United States.