

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1858.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February  
26, 1840, and March 16, 1842.  
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AUGUSTA:
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1858.

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RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1858.

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## 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 indorsement 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.

## 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 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

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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.

[Approved March 16, 1858.]

**Chapter 153.**

Resolve in relation to trespassers upon the public lands.

Public lands,  
trespassers on,  
in relation to.

*Resolved*, That the land agent be directed to take suitable measures to ascertain whether any persons are committing trespass upon the public lands; and that if any persons are found trespassing upon any lands belonging to this state the land agent is hereby directed to proceed against the same in accordance with the laws relating to trespassers upon the public lands, under the advice and direction of the governor and council.

[Approved March 18, 1858.]

**Chapter 154.**

Resolves relating to Kansas affairs.

*Whereas*, The national administration is attempting to force upon the people of Kansas a constitution of government framed without their authority, and repugnant to their wishes, therefore

*Resolved*, That the legislature and people of Maine, moved by a