

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1880.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
February 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

AUGUSTA:
SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1880.

GOVERNOR DAVIS' ADDRESS.

JANUARY 17, 1880.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

You meet under extraordinary circumstances. For nearly sixty years, you and your fathers, representatives of the people, have assembled to deliberate upon the wants of the commonwealth, and enact its laws.

In all these years the safeguards thrown around a representative government, have proved strong enough to carry our good State safely through every danger.

Annually the persons elected by the people have been summoned by the proper authorities to meet and organize the Legislature, and those defeated by the people have quietly submitted to the will of the majority.

For the first time in our history, this rule in part has been reversed; hence the unparalled excitement and popular indignation. The organization of the Legislature has, for that reason, been delayed.

Under such circumstances you have shown great forbearance. You have kept strictly within the law. Coming from law-abiding communities, you have waited till you could obtain the opinion of the Court.

That opinion has been rendered, and to-day you complete the organization of the Fifty-Ninth Legislature.

Believing that this solution of a difficult problem is a striking illustration of the strength of republican government, where only majorities can rule, and that all good citizens will hail it joyfully as such, I will only add that I shall take an early opportunity to express my views upon State affairs.