

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

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1863.

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# FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 3.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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### RESOLVES relating to national affairs.

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WHEREAS, Slavery is the conceded cause, and prime  
2 support of the existing gigantic rebellion, and from a  
3 local, limited, industrial institution it has been eleva-  
4 ted by treason into a vast war power ; it feeds and  
5 clothes the armies of the rebels in the field and their  
6 families at home ; it builds their military roads, digs  
7 their military entrenchments, erects their forts, navi-  
8 gates their piratical craft, clears the highways for  
9 their forces, drags their artillery and ammunition as  
10 human beasts of burden, and throws into the active  
11 service of the rebellion, three millions of unwilling  
12 victims ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we hail with profound satisfaction the  
2 proclamation of emancipation issued by the President

3 of the United States on the first day of January A. D.  
4 eighteen hundred and sixty-three, as a measure right  
5 under the circumstances, justified by military necessity  
6 and the laws of war, and clearly within the constitu-  
7 tional power of the President as commander-in-chief ;  
8 and that it will inaugurate a new and glorious epoch  
9 in the history of the nation, and strike a final and  
10 fatal blow at the life of the rebellion.

*Resolved*, That we regard the plan of compensated  
2 emancipation proposed to the loyal slave states by the  
3 President, as eminently wise and just, and that, if ac-  
4 cepted, it will remove the chief source of strife in the  
5 nation, and elevate and dignify labor.

*Resolved*, That as the rebellion originated in the  
2 interests of slavery, it is but equitable that slavery  
3 should aid in its suppression ; and that, therefore, the  
4 introduction of southern negroes into the military ser-  
5 vice of the nation, so far as they can be made effective,  
6 we regard as expedient and just.

*Resolved*, That the government should listen to no  
2 suggestions of compromise with rebels in arms against  
3 the unity and life of the republic ; that all adjust-  
4 ments with traitors in rebellion would be a premium to  
5 treason ; and that the war should be closed, only, when  
6 the last rebel shall have unconditionally surrendered,

7 and the flag of the union, with its thirty-five stars un-  
8 dimmed upon its folds, floats unmolested and revered  
9 over every city, and town, and village in the land.

*Resolved,* That the governor is hereby requested to  
2 transmit certified copies of these resolutions to each  
3 of our senators and representatives in congress.

AMENDMENT “A.”  
—

Strike out all after the title and insert :

WHEREAS, The war now being conducted between the  
2 federal government, and certain states of the south,  
3 has been obviously productive of no good results to  
4 either, but has been productive of incalculable evil to  
5 all the people of all the states of the Union, and is  
6 now, to all human foresight, of as uncertain duration  
7 as at any previous period of its continuance, and, in  
8 the clear light of past events, it promises to be no less  
9 uncertain, so long as the agency of force alone shall  
10 be preferred to the agency of reason and conciliation,  
11 for restoring peace and for preserving the union ;  
12 therefore,

*Resolved*, That it is not unbecoming the dignity of  
2 the national executive, and national legislature, to  
3 manifest to the several executives of the seceded states,  
4 without regard to fastidious rules of diplomatic eti-  
5 quette, a willingness to confer with them in a spirit of  
6 amity upon terms of adjusting the causes, and repair-  
7 ing the consequences as far as they may be found  
8 practicable, of the unnatural war that has arisen be-

9 tween them, and without recourse to crimination, or the  
10 requirement of apology by either party to such con-  
11 ference, and only premising, as the inviolable basis  
12 thereof, the restoration of the Union as it was, and  
13 the Constitution as it is.

*Resolved further,* That in restoring the Union as it  
2 was, and the Constitution as it is, it would be expedi-  
3 ent and just, for the purpose of a more satisfactory  
4 interpretation of that instrument, for the congress of  
5 the United States to propose through such conference,  
6 either directly, or by a national convention, and for  
7 the people of the United States, by their legislatures,  
8 or conventions, to adopt in the manner prescribed  
9 therein, all needful amendments to said constitution,  
10 as guarantees of the observance of such interpreta-  
11 tions throughout all future time, by the executive,  
12 legislative and judicial departments of the federal  
13 government, and by the several states, and by the  
14 people of the several states.

*Resolved further,* That the intervention of any for-  
2 eign power to arrogantly dictate, or voluntarily sug-  
3 gest, any terms of peace between the federal govern-  
4 ment and belligerent states of the Union, inconsistent  
5 with the perpetuity of the Union, is wholly inadmis-  
6 sible, and should be resisted by all the moral, politi-

7 cal, and physical force at the command of the federal  
8 government, and of all the states ; and to this end we  
9 pledge all the resources of this state, with “ our lives,  
10 our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

*Resolved further,* That the senate be requested to  
2 concur in the passage of these resolutions ; and that  
3 the governor of the state be requested to communicate  
4 a copy thereof, respectively to the president of the  
5 United States, and to the governors of the several  
6 states, and to the senators and representatives of this  
7 state in the congress of the United States, and request  
8 the said senators, and representatives, to cause the  
9 same to be laid before each branch of congress, and to  
10 further urge upon the Executive, and upon the congress  
11 of the United States such action thereon as will carry  
12 into effect the sentiments thereof.



## AMENDMENT "B."

Amend by striking out the preamble and first resolve and insert:

WHEREAS, The president of the United States in the discharge of the solemn and responsible duties devolving on him as commander-in-chief of the army and navy considered it his duty, on the twenty-second of September last to issue a proclamation in which he declared "that on the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any state or any designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be thenceforward and forever free," and "that hereafter as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relations between us and the people thereof, in which states that relation is or may be suspended or disturbed," and

WHEREAS, The friendly warning contained in said proclamation evincing on the part of the president, in the estimation of many, a degree of forbearance not warranted by the circumstances, has not only been en-

5 tirely disregarded, but treated with scorn and contempt  
6 by the so called confederate government, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis and his misguided associ-  
2 ates continue with unabated zeal, and with all the  
3 forces at their command, in their desperate and wick-  
4 ed work of destroying the best government ever in-  
5 stituted by the ingenuity of men, and which, if suc-  
6 cessful, we fear will blast the hopes of the friends of  
7 constitutional liberty throughout the world ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the proclamation of emancipation, is-  
2 sued by the president of the United States on the first  
3 day of January, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and  
4 sixty-three, is a measure right in itself, and fully jus-  
5 tified by military necessity and the laws of war ; and  
6 that the administration of the general government  
7 should receive the cordial sympathy and support of  
8 every loyal citizen throughout the length and breadth  
9 of the land in its mighty grapple with the most gigan-  
10 tic rebellion ever known, confidently believing that if  
11 all who profess to love and revere our flag are faithful  
12 and true, the day is not far distant when triumphant  
13 success will crown our efforts, and our once happy and  
14 prosperous, but now distracted and bleeding country  
15 will resume her former high and proud position among  
16 the nations of the earth.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
January 21, 1863. }

Reported from the Committee on Federal Relations by Mr. KINGSBURY of Portland, read once, and together with amendment "A," offered by Mr. Smith of Westbrook, and amendment "B," offered by Mr. Lyman of Machias, laid upon the table and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

CHARLES A. MILLER, *Clerk.*