

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1863.

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 15.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLVES RELATING TO NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Strike out all after the title, except the last resolve, and insert :

WHEREAS, northern abolitionism “is the original
2 cause of the present gigantic rebellion,” and from an
3 insignificant origin, has grown to be a power now
4 controlling the destinies of the nation with wanton
5 extravagance, and blind obedience to the demands of
6 fanaticism and party leaders, thereby making the
7 present a time when all true men should array them-
8 selves on the side of their country, and disregarding
9 all issues but that of loyalty to the constitution, united-
10 ly determine to preserve that instrument a monument
11 of the wisdom and patriotism of the framers of Ameri-
12 can institutions ; therefore,

Resolved, That to the government of the United
2 States, in its exercise of all constitutional authority for

3 the enforcement of the laws and the preservation of
4 the Union as established by the fathers of our republic,
5 is due the cordial support of every citizen in, and
6 every state of the Union ; but the State of Maine can
7 never consent to surrender her rights as a sovereign
8 state under the constitution, or to acknowledge the
9 theory as correct, that the federal government is one
10 of consolidated powers ; and we believe that the pro-
11 clamation of emancipation issued by the president of
12 the United States, January first, eighteen hundred and
13 sixty-three, will have the practical effect to form the
14 basis of a series of acts on the part of the executive,
15 which, if submitted to by the people, can only result
16 in the complete overthrow of state sovereignty, and
17 the establishment of a monster centralized power on
18 the ruins of free institutions.

Resolved, That the right to discuss on all proper
2 occasions public measures, and the merits of public
3 men, is “an ancient and constitutional right of the
4 people of the United States.” “It is to be enjoyed
5 in every house, cottage and cabin of the nation ; per-
6 taining alike to all in private life it belongs to public
7 life as a duty,” and the administration that in the
8 least degree abridges this right, or prevents the dis-
9 charge of this duty, violates the plain provisions of

10 the constitution, subverts the liberty of the people,
11 and usurps the power of a despot.

• *Resolved*, That the present national administration,
2 by its vacillating and timid but despotic course in the
3 management of the most terrible and disastrous war
4 of modern times ; by its appointment and removal of
5 chief army officers, at the dictation of party leaders
6 avowedly opposed to the “ constitution as it is, and
7 the Union as it was ;” by its arbitrary and unconsti-
8 tutional arrests and imprisonments ; by its suppression
9 of the writ of habeas corpus, the right to which is one
10 of the dearest privileges of American freemen; by its
11 declaration of martial law, in states where war does not
12 exist, and where the civil authorities were in the unob-
13 structed exercise of their proper functions, thereby
14 abolishing trial by jury, “ a right formidable to tyrants
15 only ;” by its dismemberment of a sovereign state ; by
16 its proclamation of emancipation, unauthorized by any
17 law, and not justified upon any principle of humanity,
18 or by any plea of necessity ; by its abridgment of the
19 freedom of speech and of the press, has proved itself
20 alike unwilling to discharge the important duties that
21 have devolved upon it, and regardless of the constitu-
22 tional rights of the people.

Resolved, That the best interests of our country and

2 the interests of freedom everywhere require, that an
3 honorable termination should be had of the present
4 civil war. And to the end that peace may be restored
5 to our nation by honorable means, we recommend to
6 our senators and representatives in congress to use
7 their best efforts to secure this result, if possible, by
8 means other than war, and thereby preserve the union,
9 “with all the dignity, equality and rights of the sev-
10 eral states unimpaired.”

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 6, 1863.

Offered by Mr. WIGGIN of York, and on his motion laid on the table and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

EZRA C. BRETT, *Secretary.*