

RESOLUTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

Resolutions relative to preventing the introduction of slavery into new states.

The Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whilst they cherish the right of the individual states to express their opinions upon all public measures proposed in the congress of the union, are aware that its usefulness must in a great degree depend upon the discretion with which it is exercised; they believe that the right ought not to be resorted to upon trivial subjects or unimportant occasions, but they are also persuaded that there are moments when the neglect to exercise it would be a dereliction of public duty.

Such an occasion as in their judgment demands the frank expression of the sentiments of Pennsylvania is now presented. A measure was ardently supported in the last congress of the United States, and will probably be as earnestly urged during the existing session of that body, which has a palpable tendency to impair the political relations of the several states, which is calculated to mar the social happiness of the present and future generations, which if adopted would impede the march of humanity and freedom through the world, and would affix and perpetuate an odious stain upon the present race; a measure in brief, which proposes to spread the crimes and cruelties of slavery from the banks of the Mississippi to the shores of the Pacific.

When measures of this character are seriously advocated in the republican congress of America in the nineteenth century, the several states are invoked by the duty which they owe to the Deity, by the veneration which they entertain for the memory of the founders of the republic, and by a tender regard for posterity, to protest against its adoption, to refuse to conveant with crime, and to limit the range of an evil that already hangs in awful boding over so large a portion of the union.

Nor can such a protest be entered by any state with greater propriety than by Pennsylvania; this commonwealth has as sacredly respected the rights of other states as it has been careful of its own; it has been the invariable aim of the people of Pennsylvania to extend to the universe by their example, the unadulterated blessings of civil and religious freedom,

it is their pride that they have been at all times the practical advocates of those improvements and charities amongst men, which are so well calculated to enable them to answer the purposes of their Creator; and above all, they may boast that they were foremost in removing the pollution of slavery from amongst them.

If indeed the measure against which Pennsylvania considers it her duty to raise her voice, was calculated to abridge any of the rights guaranteed to the several states, if odious as slavery is, it was proposed to hasten its extinction by means injurious to the states upon which it was unhappily entailed, Pennsylvania would be amongst the first to insist upon a sacred observance of the constitutional compact; but it cannot be pretended that the rights of any of the states are at all to be affected by refusing to extend the mischiefs of human bondage over the boundless regions of the west, a territory which formed no part of the confederation at the adoption of the constitution, which has been but lately purchased from an European power by the people of the union at large, which may, or may not be admitted as a state into the union at the discretion of congress, which must establish a republican form of government and no other, and whose climate affords none of the pretexts urged for resorting to the labor of natives of the torrid zone, such a territory has no right, inherent or acquired, such as those states possessed which established the existing constitution. When that constitution was framed in September seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, the concession that three-fifths of the slaves in the states then existing should be represented in congress, could not have been intended to embrace regions at that time held by a foreign power; on the contrary, so anxious were the congress of that day to confine human bondage within its ancient home, that on the thirteenth of July, seventeen hundred and eighty seven, that body unanimously declared that slavery or involuntary servitude should not exist in the extensive territories bounded by the Ohio, the Mississippi, Canada and the lakes, and in the ninth section of the first article of the constitution itself, the power of congress to prohibit the migration of servile persons after the year eighteen and eight is expressly recognized, nor is there to be found in the statute book a single instance of the admission of a territory to the rank of a state, in which congress have not adhered to the right vested in them by the constitution, to stipulate with the territory upon the conditions of such admission.

The Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania therefore cannot but deprecate any departure from the humane and enlightened policy pursued, not only by the illustrious congress of seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, but by their successors without exception, they are persuaded that to open the fertile regions of the west to a servile race, would tend to increase their numbers beyond all past example, would

open a new and steady market for the lawless venders of human flesh, and would render all schemes for obliterating this most foul blot upon the American character useless and unavailing.

Under these convictions, and in the full persuasion that upon this topic there is but one opinion in Pennsylvania.

Senators and Representatives requested to vote against slavery in Missouri.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, That the Senators and Representatives of this state, in the congress of the United States, be, and they are hereby requested to vote against the admission of any territory as a state into the union, unless "the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall be prohibited, and all children born within the said territory after its admission into the union as a state, shall be free, but may be held to service until the age of twenty-five years."

Resolved, That the Governor be, and he is hereby requested to cause a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to be transmitted to each of the Senators and Representatives of this state, in the congress of the United States.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

ISAAC WEAVER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—the twenty-second day of December, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

WILLIAM FINDLAY.

CHAPTER II.

Further distribution of Smiths and Purdon.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, That the Secretary of the Commonwealth be, and he is hereby required to furnish each member of the Senate and each member of the House of Representatives (who have not heretofore received the same,) with one copy of Smith's edition of the laws of Pennsylvania and one copy of Purdon's Digest, and also to transmit to each justice of the peace and alderman who has not heretofore received the same, or a copy of Bioren's or Smith's edition of the laws, one copy of Purdon's Digest: *Provided*, That each justice of the peace and alderman aforesaid, shall

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before he receives a copy of the said digest give a receipt to the prothonotary of the county, conditioned for the return of the same to his successor in office.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

ISAAC WEAVER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—the eighteenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

WILLIAM FINDLAY.

CHAPTER III.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the clerks of the respective houses be instructed to procure two complete copies of the journals of the Senate, Journals to be procured for the legislature. two complete copies of the journals of the House of Representatives, and two complete copies of the acts of Assembly, from among the books of the house or wherever else they can be procured, from the earliest session of the legislature to the present year, and that they have the same durably bound and placed as follows, viz. One copy of each in the state library subject to the restriction of not being taken out of the room in which the library is held, the other in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, subject to a like restriction.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE, *Speaker*
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ISAAC WEAVER,
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APPROVED—the sixth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

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APPROVED—the sixth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

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CHAPTER IV.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That it shall be the duty of the inspectors of flour and bark for the port of Philadelphia, to report in the month of January in each year, under oath to the Auditor General, the quantity of flour and bark by them severally inspected, together with the amount of their several receipts and expenditures.

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JOSEPH LAWRENCE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

ISAAC WEAVER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—the sixteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

WILLIAM FINDLAY.

CHAPTER V.

WHEREAS experience has shown that banking institutions have been multiplied to an extent highly pernicious to the interests of this commonwealth, and that those evils are in some cases increased by the establishment of branches of banks among us from the neighboring states, contrary, as there is reason to believe, to the intent and meaning of the statute of the twenty-eighth of March eighteen hundred and eight: Therefore,

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the Attorney General of this Commonwealth cause legal process to issue on behalf of the state against all persons interested directly or indirectly in the management or direction of the business of the office or branch of the Camden Bank in Philadelphia, and also against all persons interested in other branches of banks trading within the jurisdiction and not under a charter from this state, and that he cause their books and papers to be produced before the court where his process shall be made returnable; and should their transactions appear to be contrary to the intent and meaning of any law of this state, that the judges be required to cause

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them to be held to special bail in the sum of five thousand dollars each, and that the Attorney General proceed in the name and on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, to receive such fines and forfeitures as the party or parties may have incurred under any existing laws of this commonwealth.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

ISAAC WEAVER,
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APPROVED—the twenty-second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

WILLIAM FINDLAY.