

JOHN W. DAVIS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

HOUSE....No. 159.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 3, 1852.

The Joint Special Committee on the Resolutions of New Hampshire and Delaware, to which was referred "Resolves concerning Slavery," by vote of the House, March 12, 1852, have considered the same, and report that said resolves ought to pass.

For the Committee,

SAMUEL CLARK.

[Introduced, on leave, by Mr. HOAR, of Worcester.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two.

RESOLVES

Concerning Slavery.

Whereas, It has been the custom of Massachusetts, in times past, to express to the general government and to her sister States, her wishes and purposes regarding matters which deeply concern the general welfare, and

Whereas, The principles upon which the permanence of the Union and the liberty of its citizens depend, have been put in hazard by a series of measures known as the *compromise acts*; and

Whereas, It has been claimed that this series of measures has, by general consent of the people, been adopted as a final and irrevocable compact; be it therefore

Resolved, That Massachusetts has not changed the principles she has repeatedly affirmed in relation to the institution of slavery; that it is a local institution, which should be confined

to the States where it exists, subject to no control and entitled to no support from the general government; and that Congress has no right to involve the free States in its shame, or in its guilt, by laws designed to countenance, perpetuate, or extend it.

Resolved, That the people of Massachusetts yield to no others in attachment to the Union and the constitution; that they will support the one and obey the other, and will fearlessly and inflexibly resist any measures which violate the principles of constitutional liberty, and thereby disturb the harmony and endanger the existence of the Union.

Resolved, That the Act of 1850, known as the fugitive slave law, is opposed alike to the doctrines of christianity and to the fundamental maxims of free government; that it is unconstitutional, unjust, and oppressive; and that it ought to be speedily and forever repealed.

Resolved, That Massachusetts protests against the delivery into slavery of men found upon her soil, and under the jurisdiction of her laws, in the actual enjoyment of freedom; especially without due process of law, and without a trial by jury before a legally constituted judicial tribunal.

Resolved, That Massachusetts expects of her senators and representatives in Congress, that they will in all respects conform to the principles in these resolutions expressed.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit copies of these resolves to the governors of the several States of the Union, and to our senators and representatives at Washington, to be by them laid before the two houses of Congress.

