

HOUSE . . . No. 116.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

RESOLUTIONS.

[Introduced on leave by Mr. LORING, of Salem, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.]

I. *Resolved*, That the initiation of all measures for the civil and political organization of the states lately in rebellion is entirely within the control of congress, and that such measures should contain guarantees for the full protection of the civil and political rights and franchises of all citizens, and that these rights and franchises should be held and exercised to the end that political power may be in the hands of loyal supporters of the government, and not of rebel enemies.

II. *Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to the senators and representatives of Massachusetts at Washington for their firmness hitherto in maintaining this principle, and for their resistance to all attempts, from whatever quarter, to place in the halls of congress disloyal men, or the representatives of disloyal people, to the peril of the national credit, and at the imminent risk of losing by legislation all that we have gained by successful war. And we expect them to maintain this position in the future, and to the last.

III. *Resolved*, That while thus expressing our confidence in our senatorial and representative delegations in congress, and

the determination of the people to stand by them, we are also impelled to take notice of the recent charges made, by name, against one of the senators of this state, Hon. Charles Sumner, in the lately published speech of the president of the United States, and to declare that the language used and the charges made by the president are unbecoming the elevated station occupied by him, an unjust reflection upon Massachusetts, and without the shadow of justification or defence founded upon the private or public record of our eminent senator.

[Introduced on leave by Mr. SEAVER, of Roxbury, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.]

Whereas, The war waged for the maintainance of the union and the constitution having ceased ;

And whereas, The laws of the United States are not opposed by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by ordinary course of judicial proceedings in any of the states lately in rebellion : therefore,

Resolved, That the representation in congress of all the states of the union, in accordance with the constitution, is demanded by the fundamental laws of the country.

Resolved, That the legislature of Massachusetts recognize with profound satisfaction the able, judicious and patriotic efforts of President Johnson to restore civil government in the United States, and to secure to all the states that equality in the general government without which we can neither be prosperous at home or respected abroad.

Resolved, That all attempts, by whomsoever made, to prevent proper persons, constitutionally elected senators or representatives from any state of this union, taking seats in the congress of the United States, should be denounced as efforts to countenance the disloyal idea of secession having been accomplished by the rebellion, and as tending to dissolve the union of these

states, as well as gross violations of the constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That in the recent action of the supreme court of the United States, and in the constant and cordial endorsement of the policy of President Johnson by Lieutenant-General Grant, we have additional cause to congratulate the president and the people of the whole country.

Resolved, That the repeated endorsement of President Johnson by conventions in the several states, representing both the great parties of the country, is the willing testimony of a grateful people of their belief in the great principles that regulate his action and govern his administrative policy.

[Introduced on leave by Mr. STONE, of New Bedford, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.]

Resolved, That the people of this Commonwealth have heard with emphatic disapprobation and dissent the announcement by the president of the United States of his opinion that the states lately in rebellion have recovered their rights under the constitution as members of the union, and are now entitled to representation in congress; and that congress has no right to legislate in any way affecting the interest of those states while they are unrepresented in congress.

Resolved, That while the disaffection to the union, the hostility to union men, and the bitter hatred of the freedmen, which now obtain in those states lately in rebellion, continue, it is neither expedient nor just to withdraw from those states the military forces of the general government.

Resolved, That it becomes this people which, during the past four years, in seasons of appalling gloom and sharpest trial, has seen the guiding and controlling hand of a beneficent Providence working out their deliverance and triumph, to meet disappointment and seemingly impending political catastrophe with calm-

ness and sobriety, dispassionately and fearlessly, in the assurance that the principles for which they have been contending will eventually prevail, and in the faith that the God of Nations has not led them thus far towards the fruition of their hopes only to embitter their final disappointment.

[Introduced on leave by Mr. Fox, of Dorchester, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.]

Whereas, It is the privilege and duty of a free people to express through their representatives their opinions upon all questions affecting the welfare of the republic; and, *whereas*, the position assumed by the president of the United States in his speech of February 22, gives rise to great and decided differences on matters involving principles which lie at the foundation of our government; therefore,

Resolved, That we believe it to be eminently fitting and proper at this time, as representatives of the people of this Commonwealth, to express, respectfully but firmly our opinion concerning the existing state of national affairs.

Resolved, That the states engaged in the rebellion, by their appeal to the arbitration of force, forfeited all claim to civil rights under the constitution of the United States, until such time as, by the abandonment of the ideas which led to that rebellion, they are prepared to resume their allegiance in good faith and without reservation.

Resolved, That yielding to superior force, and ceasing from unavailing resistance in the field, thereby relinquishing the position of belligerents under protest, ought not to be considered in itself as returning to allegiance in good faith and without reservation.

Resolved, That congress, holding under the constitution, the power of declaring and maintaining war, is the proper authority to determine upon the time which shall be deemed the close of the rebellion.

Resolved, That all legislation which deprives any human being of civil or political rights, on account of race or color, is contrary to the principles upon which alone republican government can exist.

Resolved, That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested to advocate and support such measures as shall best advance the principles expressed in the foregoing resolutions.

[Introduced on leave by Mr. HALL, of Holden, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.]

Whereas, The president of the United States did recently in a public manner in the city of Washington, denounce the Hon. Charles Sumner, a senator from Massachusetts as a traitor “laboring to pervert and destroy this government;” therefore,

Resolved, That Massachusetts by the voice of her legislature in general court assembled, approves the action of her senators and representatives in congress, in resisting the admission of the representatives from the rebellious states, as long as those states fail to comply with all the requirements of the constitution and to yield obedience to the law.

Resolved, That the recent public attack upon one of the honored and beloved senators of Massachusetts by the president of the United States in a public speech in the city of Washington, is an insult to the Commonwealth, as unjust as it was undignified and disgraceful, and calls for the indignant rebuke of every patriotic citizen of that state to whose sons the country is so largely indebted for the salvation of the national capital, when those who heard and applauded that attack were traitorously plotting to plant the standard of treason upon its walls, and to destroy the constitution and the government.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor, be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the president, and to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

It is stated that the Committee will not be able to report on the subject of the proposed amendments to the Bill until the end of the year.

The Committee will also be asked to report on the proposed amendments to the Bill, which are now before the House of Commons.

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