

each of the senators and representatives of this state in congress.

*Approved March 27, 1858.*

**Chap. 43.** RESOLVE IN RELATION TO THE CONSOLIDATION AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE STATUTES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Commission to terminate Dec. 31.

*Resolved,* That the commission for the consolidation and arrangement of the statutes of the Commonwealth be terminated on the thirty-first day of December next, and that the commissioners submit their report to the next legislature.

*Approved March 27, 1858.*

**Chap. 44.** RESOLVES IN RELATION TO THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CASE OF SCOTT *versus* SANDFORD.

Powers of court limited to rightful authority.

*Resolved,* That while the people of Massachusetts recognize the rightful judicial authority of the supreme court of the United States, in the determination of all questions properly coming before it, they will never consent that their rights shall be impaired, or their liberties invaded, by reason of any usurpations of political power by said tribunal.

Slavery in Mass. impossible.

*Resolved,* That slavery does not and cannot exist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Citizens of Massachusetts citizens of United States, including negroes.

*Resolved,* That all citizens of Massachusetts are citizens of the United States; that all negroes, not aliens, domiciled within her limits, are citizens of Massachusetts, and are entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities of citizenship, in the courts of the United States and elsewhere.

Dred Scott decision.

*Resolved,* That no part of the decision of the supreme court of the United States, in the case of Scott *versus* Sandford, is binding, which was not necessary to the determination of that case.

No cause in said case to consider Act of 1820.

*Resolved,* That in said case, there was no cause for the inquiry, on the part of the court, into the constitutionality of the act of congress of March sixth, eighteen hundred and twenty, known as the Missouri Compromise, whereby slavery north of thirty-six degrees, thirty minutes, in the territory acquired from France, was forever prohibited; that we hold said act to have been constitutional and valid; and that its repeal was unwise, a gross breach of faith, and the source of unmingled injustice and wrong.

Act held constitutional and repeal denounced.

Slavery local, freedom natural.

*Resolved,* That slavery can exist nowhere, except by positive law; while freedom is the natural condition of man.

Protection to slavery in territories denied.

*Resolved,* That we regard the doctrine, that the constitution of the United States protects and maintains slavery in the territories, as unfounded, monstrous and a palpable contradiction, since the preamble to that instrument declares that it was formed to "secure the blessings of liberty," not