

SLAVERY—KANSAS AND SECRET POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.

IN RELATION TO

The extension of slavery, Kansas, and secret political associations.

JUNE 20, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES relating to the extension of slavery, the Territory of Kansas, and secret political associations.

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this legislature, the settled convictions of the people of Maine are adverse to the extension of slavery over the territories of the United States; but that the "resolves relating to slavery," approved March seventeen, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, set forth doctrines which are not satisfactory to the people of this State, and are calculated to increase sectional agitation, without accomplishing any good result, and to place the State in an attitude of apparent hostility to the Union and the constitution.

Resolved, That the people of Kansas Territory, under the constitution of the United States, and the provisions of the Nebraska-Kansas act, the true intent and meaning of which by its very terms are declared to be, "to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution," are entitled to protection against interference from any quarter, intended to thwart or prevent the actual settlers in said Territory from the full and complete exercise of the right of suffrage and the enjoyment of all civil and political rights and privileges incident to their position, and necessary to secure the just regulation of their domestic institutions.

Resolved, That the Territory of Kansas should be admitted as a State into the Union, whenever it shall have a sufficient population, and the people thereof have adopted a constitution republican in its

character, and have conformed to the usages which have heretofore been considered necessary and proper in similar cases.

Resolved, That secret oath-bound political associations are hostile to a republican form of government; destroy the rights of the minorities and the independence of the citizens; corrupt the purity of the ballot-box, and become "potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men are enabled to subvert the power of the people, and usurp for themselves the reins of government."

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, to be presented to that body, and to the governor of each State, with a request that the same be laid before the legislature thereof.

In the House of Representatives, April 10, 1856.—Read and passed.

JOSIAH S. LITTLE, *Speaker*.

In Senate, April 10, 1856.—Read and passed.

LOT M. MORRILL, *President*.

Approved April 10, 1856.

SAMUEL WELLS.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Augusta, April 23, 1856.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original deposited in this office.

CALEB R. AYER,
Secretary of State.