

L A W S
OF THE
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

PASSED
JUNE SESSION, 1856.



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1856.

CHAPTER 1870.

Resolutions of the Legislature of New Hampshire in relation to the late acts of violence and bloodshed by the Slave Power in the Territory of Kansas, and at the National Capital.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That all subsequent events have demonstrated that the abrogation, in the act organizing the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, of the prohibition against slavery, which formed a part of the compact long known and respected as the Missouri Compromise, was not, as was alleged by the supporters of the measure, for the purpose of recognizing and enunciating a great political principle, but, as was charged by its opponents at the time, had for its object to strip that great territory of its defences, and to open it to invasion and conquest by that relentless power, which, in its onward movement, no concession can appease, and no acquisition can satisfy; and which, for the advancement of its unholy purposes, has long wielded and virtually claims the right to wield, the whole power of the general government.

2. *Resolved*, That the successful incursions of the armed and organized band of lawless marauders from a neighboring State into the territory of Kansas—assailing and overpowering its peaceful inhabitants, preventing their lawful exercise of their political rights, seizing upon and appropriating all the powers vested in them for the formation of a government, and fortifying and perpetuating this usurpation by the most oppressive and atrocious laws—have proved that the doctrine of popular sovereignty, however true in the abstract, and in its application to more mature, or to independent communities, is not fitted to the condition of an infant territory, under constitutional guardianship, and most especially, where the powers vested in the guardian shall be used in violation of the great trust which it holds.

3. *Resolved*, That there never has been established in Kansas any government in accordance with the provisions of its territorial or organic law, and that the conduct of the National Executive, in sanctioning and sustaining a pretended government forcibly imposed upon its inhabitants by slavery fanatics and propagandists from the State of Missouri, is unjust and inhuman, and ought to be rebuked by the friends of freedom throughout the Union, in the most emphatic manner in which they can express their condemnation of wrong.

4. *Resolved*, That the adoption of a constitution, the organi-

zation of a government, and the application for admission into the Union as a State by the people of Kansas, are measures forced upon them by the necessities of their condition, are justified by precedent, and should be acceded to by Congress as the best and speediest, if not the only means of restoring peace and order to the territory, and of calming the agitation of the country.

5. *Resolved*, That responsibility for the depredations, burnings, imprisonments, and murders which have been committed against the property and persons of the people of Kansas, tidings of which have come to us upon every western breeze, rests we are constrained to say, as well upon the President of the United States, charged with the execution of the laws and the preservation of the peace of the country, as upon the inflamed and misguided men who have been the actors in the perpetration of these crimes, and upon those who have stimulated and instigated their commission.

6. *Resolved*, That the recent unmanly and murderous assaults which have disgraced the national capital, are but the single outbursts of that fierce spirit of determined domination which has revealed itself so fully on a larger field, and which manifests itself at every point of contact between freedom and slavery, and which, if it shall not be promptly met and subdued, will render any free expression of opinion, any independence of personal action by prominent men of the free States in relation to the great national issue now pending, imprudent and perilous, unless it shall be understood that it is to be backed up by the bowie-knife and the revolver.

7. *Resolved*, That while offences, of whatever enormity which affect only or mainly individual security, may be referred for punishment to the local laws of the place where they are committed, for those offences which reach beyond the individual, and inflict a wound upon a great principle which concerns the whole people, it becomes a duty to arraign the offender at the great bar of the public opinion of the country, and to pronounce upon him such sentence of condemnation as his crime shall merit.

8. *Resolved*, That the assault upon an editor of a public journal, when in attendance upon Congress in his lawful business, for opinions supposed to have been expressed by him through the columns of that journal, upon the public official conduct of a member of the government, was a blow at the freedom of the press, and could only have been intended as an admonition that slavery had grown so great that her champions must be spoken of only in careful language and with bated breath.

9. *Resolved*, That the later, more atrocious, and more brutal attack, by one of the chivalrous representatives of South Car-

olina, upon a senator from Massachusetts, in the senate chamber, for words spoken in debate, in his place, and as the organ of the State which he in part represents in that body, made with the stealthy approach of the assassin, and with the cowardly accompaniment of an accessory and coadjutor, inflicting blows which by their force and frequency had in them hardly anything short of the significance of murder, is receiving the indignant rebuke which it deserves from the concentrated voice of the people of the free States, expressed through the press and in popular assemblies and legislative bodies—not merely as a crime against personal sanctity, but as a violation of senatorial privilege, as an insult to the dignity and rights of a sovereign State, and as an outrage upon the great constitutional right of freedom of debate;—a right, in the vindication and preservation of which, every State and every citizen has a deep interest,—and that it is fitting that New Hampshire, through her legislature, should add her voice, as she now does, to that of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, in swelling this volume of denunciation, and in demanding the punishment of the offender by his expulsion from that body which he has disgraced.

10. *Resolved*, That the people of the free States, strong in the irresistible force of a majority of numbers, have the power, if they will exercise it, through the lawful and peaceful agency of the ballot box, to compel respect for the rights of their representatives wherever they may be in the discharge of their official duties; the power to right the wrongs of Kansas, and to restore peace and security to that unhappy territory; the power to prevent the extension of slavery over any territory now free, and to re-establish freedom, as it should have ever been, as the controlling power in the government,—and that this State now pledges herself to co-operate with any and all of her sister States in all constitutional measures for the accomplishment of these great ends. •

11. *Resolved*, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Governors of the several States and Territories of the Union, to be laid before the legislative authorities thereof, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

Approved July 12, 1856.

CHAPTER 1871.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That the treasurer be authorized to pay the town of Sandwich the sum of eighteen dollars and twenty-four cents (\$18,24) the same being due said town as her proportion of the railroad tax for the year 1856.

Approved July 9, 1856.

CHAPTER 1872.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That the treasurer be authorized to pay to the town of Meredith, the sum of one hundred and ninety eight dollars and twenty-one cents (\$198,21) it being the proportion of railroad tax belonging to said town for 1855.

Approved July 2, 1856.

CHAPTER 1873.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That the sum of twenty-five dollars be, and the same hereby is appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to purchase stationery for the use of the prisoners at the State Prison, and that the same be expended by the warden for that purpose, and that His Excellency the Governor be authorized to draw his warrant on the treasury for that amount.

Approved July 11, 1856.

CHAPTER 1874.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That the sum of five hundred dollars, (\$500) be, and the same hereby is appropriated for the contingent expenses of the State, and His Excellency the Governor is hereby authorized to draw that sum, from time to time, from the treasury, for such expenses as to him may appear necessary.

Approved July 9, 1856.