In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five

Resolved, the Relation to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Case of Dred Scott.

The United States from any control of the question of Slavery within the territories of the United States, either through Congress or local governments instituted under the authority of Congress, or otherwise, and,

Whereas, such extra-judicial opinion subordinates the political power and interests of the American people to the capricious and arbitrary ambition of a few thousand Slaveholders, who are thereby enabled to carry the vicious institution of Slavery wherever the national power extends, and forevermore all territory which the United States may hereafter acquire by purchase or otherwise, to a law of Slavery as irrepealable as the organic Constitution of the country; and,

Whereas, such extra-judicial opinion of a geographical Majority of the Supreme
Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States, in the recent case of Dred Scott, over which it expressly declared it had no jurisdiction, has undertaken to pronounce an extra-judicial opinion, prohibiting the people of the United States from any control of the question of slavery within the territories of the United States, either through Congress, or local governments instituted under the authority of Congress, or otherwise.

Whereas, such extra-judicial decision subordinates the political power and interests of the American people to the caprice and ambition of a few thousand slaveholders, who are thereby enabled to carry the odious institution of slavery wherever the national power extends, and foredooms all territory which the United States may hereafter acquire by purchase or otherwise, to a law of slavery as irrepealable as the organic Constitution of the country.

Whereas, such extra-judicial decree of a geographical majority of the Supreme
Court is conclusive proof of the determination of the slave-holding States to subvert all the principles upon which the American Union was formed, and degrade it into an engine for the extension and perpetuation of the barbarous and detestable system of chattel slavery; therefore

Resolved. That the extra-judicial decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Dred Scott, is not binding in law or conscience, upon the government or citizens of the United States, and that it is of an import so alarming and dangerous, as to demand the instant and emphatic repudiation of the Country.
Resolved. That the Supreme Court of the United States should, by peaceful and constitutional measures, be so reconstituted as to relieve it from the domination of a sectional faction, and make it a tribunal, whose decisions shall be in harmony with the Constitution of the United States and the spirit of our institutions, and whose hands all classes of persons in the United States, without regard to race or locality, shall receive even and exact justice.

Resolved. That until the extra-judicial opinion of the Supreme Court, establishing slavery in all the territories of the United States, and placing it beyond the reach of Congress or the people, is reversed and set aside, and, until the advance of our national flag ceases to be the advance of slavery, it will be the paramount duty of the supporters of justice and liberty to resist any further acquisition of territory, which may be attempted, under whatever disguise, with the purpose of enlarging the area of an institution which is the scandal of this country and age.
Amend by striking out the words "Magna Charta of English liberties and also" on 4th page 17th & eighteenth.

Resolved. That Maine will not allow slavery within its borders, in any form, or under any pretence, for any time, however short; let the consequences be what they may.
4. Resolved, That the independent right of each State to determine who shall be admitted to political franchises and citizenship within its own limit, is clear and indisputable, and is to be exercised without question by any other State, and that persons admitted to the rights of citizenship by any State, are, by the plain letter of the Constitution of the United States, entitled to all the immunities privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

5. Resolved, That whatever may be the course of political events elsewhere, the people of Maine determined to abide by, and make effective within the limits of their own jurisdiction, the principles of the Declaration of Independence, American Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of this State, which, ordained to establish justice and "secure the blessings of liberty", declares that "all men are born equal, free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness."
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.

Amended by striking out the word "Acree" and substituting the word "Opinion".
7. Resolve, 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.{

In Senate, Apr. 14, 1857

Upon said Amendment as the most amended and as amended to be printed.

J. B. Hale, Sec.

1st of Reps, Apr. 15, 1857

These resolutions have been twice read and are amitted passed by the Members in concurrence.
A resolution in relation to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the
Dred Scott Case.

April 14, 1857

Tabled

Tabled

Abolitionists

Abolitionist meeting addressed

Abolitionist