

<sup>State Government</sup>  
Resolves relating to Slavery.

Resolved That the institution of human slavery is at variance with the theory of our Government, abhorrent to the common sentiment of mankind, and fraught with danger to all who come within the sphere of its influence; that the Federal Government possesses adequate power to inhibit its existence in the Territories of the Union; that the constitutionality of this power has been settled by judicial construction, by contemporaneous exposition, and by repeated acts of legislation.



Resolved - That possessing the power thus to inhibit slavery on the National domain it is the manifest duty of Congress to exercise it; and in case of the refusal or neglect of Congress to take such action it becomes the right and duty of the people of a Territory to exclude slavery therefrom and to establish free institutions by the force of Territorial Legislation.



Resolved That the new and  
 startling ~~doctrine~~<sup>dogma</sup>, endorsed  
 by the National Administration,  
 that the Constitution of the  
 United States carries slavery  
 into all the Territories and  
 guarantees its preservation and  
 protection therein, is utterly  
 repugnant to the feelings and  
 long settled convictions of the  
 American people; is in flat  
 contravention of the spirit and  
 letter of the Constitution itself,  
 and is a foul libel upon  
 the memory of Washington &  
 his co-partners, who in founding  
 our Government, declared that  
 its main objects were "to establish  
 justice, promote the general  
 welfare, and secure the  
 blessings of liberty to ourselves  
 and our posterity"



Resolved That the Supreme Court  
 of the United States by the monstrous  
 doctrines it has avowed in the  
Red Scott decision ~~and by its~~  
~~uniform & persistent attempts to~~  
~~pervert the true intent & meaning~~  
~~of the Federal Constitution,~~ has  
 forfeited all claim to the  
 respect and confidence of the  
 nation. The preservation of personal  
 liberty and the general cause  
 of truth and right demand  
~~therefore that this Court be~~  
 therefore with a reorganization  
 of this ~~Revised~~ Tribunal, to the  
 end that the free state may  
 have a representation upon the  
 Bench proportioned to their  
 population and commensurate to  
 the mighty interests upon which  
 they have at stake



5

Resolved That in enunciating these principles the people of Maine are but reaffirming the basis to which they have always adhered. They ask for no ~~interpretations~~ <sup>none</sup> interpretations of the Constitution, but demand that it shall be construed & administered in the spirit in which it was formed. Attached to the Union <sup>& patriotic</sup> associations & the ties of commercial interest, the people of the state will be the last to adopt any course of action which will afford just cause for ~~weakening~~ weakening or dissolving the bonds which unite them to their sister members of the Confederacy

At a Sess. Apr 2, 1859

Read twice and passed to be engrossed  
Suff.

Geo W Melrose Clerk

In Senate April 4, 1859,

Read twice, amended as for sheet "A" annexed, & as amended passed to be engrossed. Sef. Joseph B. Hall. Secy



In 1800 Reps, Apr, 4, 1809  
The House refused to receive writs on its  
former vote

Geo. M. Cox, Clerk

In Senate April 4 1859  
The Senate decide ~~to~~ recede

Joseph P. Mallory Sec

Ch. 81-  
Report of the Joint  
Select & Committee on  
that part of it 460  
Governors Preface  
relating to slavery

1859

State of Illinois  
In witness whereof, this 31<sup>st</sup> day  
of May, 1859, at Springfield, Ill.  
I, John C. Johnson, Clerk of the Senate,  
for the use of the Legislature  
Geo. M. Cox, Clerk