

38
9
5
6
—
62

PROCEEDINGS

OF A MEETING

HELD AT BANGOR, MAINE,

BY THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

NORTHERN INTERFERENCE WITH THE DOMESTIC

RELATIONS OF MASTER AND SLAVE

AT THE SOUTH.

BANGOR
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE MEETING.

BANGOR
1825.



MEETING AT CITY HALL.



TO THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION.

The citizens of Bangor, one and all, who are opposed to the measures of the Northern Abolitionists, and who are desirous publicly, and in the language of Washington "indignantly" to "frown upon the first dawning of any attempt to alienate one portion of our country from the rest; or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts;" who hold to the preservation of our national compact, in its original spirit and purity, as a sacred and inviolable duty, and as the only ark of our political salvation;—who disclaiming for themselves, protest against the right of other citizens, of any one State, to interfere, directly or indirectly, in the domestic relations of the citizens of any other State; and who feel pledged by every obligation sacred to men of honor and freemen to support, at all hazards, that fundamental article in our sacred Constitution, that "the United States shall guarantee to *every State* in this Union, a Republican form of government; and shall protect each of them against invasion, and against domestic violence,"—are requested to meet at the City Hall, on Saturday evening, the 29th August, at 7 o'clock, to take into consideration the measures most proper to be adopted, to counteract the attempts now making by *these individuals* to create civil discord; and to convey to our brethren of the South the most solemn assurance of the public reprobation of their proceedings, and the insignificance of their numbers, and their utter inability to produce any public action among the independent and intelligent citizens of Maine, inconsistent with the rights of the Southern States, and the inviolability of that same instrument, which was purchased with the best blood of our fathers, and which binds together in the bonds of enlightened friendship, and hallowed devotion, the patriots of the North and the South, the East and the West. The importance of the subject demands the attention of every friend to his country, and we again respectfully request the at-

tendance of all who cherish in the true spirit of patriotism, that invaluable inheritance which has been transmitted untarnished to us, by the founders of this great American Republic.

Signed by

Allen Gilman,
James Crosby,
David Perham,
Wiggins Hill,
Samuel Hudson,
Nath'l Haynes,
Theo. S. Dodd,
John Appleton,
B. Tainter,
Levi Cram,
W. Stetson,
Robert Perkins, Jr.
Rufus K. Hardy,
Wm. P. Lamson,
Lemuel March,
M. P. Norton,
Charles K. Miller,
Sam. G. Glidden,
Asa Sawyer,
F. M. Patterson,
Geo. B. Moody,
Horace S. Fiske,
L. L. Morse,
Thornton M'Gaw,
Charles H. Upton,
Jos. W. Boynton,
Alonzo Kingsley,
Israel Hatch,
Buchan Haskins,
Charles G. Bryant,
Henry Flagg,
Robert Ilsley,
Charles Barstow,
P. P. Learned,
Jeremiah Bartlett,
Cyrus Emery,
Geo. C. Angier,
Thos. L. Nay,
Zebulon Smith,

Gorham Parks,
Solomon Parsons,
John Stevens,
J. W. Garnsey,
Charles Ramsdell,
Jesse Wentworth,
Joel D. Thompson,
J. Prescott,
M. Gilligan,
S. Larrabee,
Newell Bean,
J.W. Frost,
G. K. Jewett,
S. A. Lamson,
Charles Greenough,
Samuel True,
Joseph Graves,
Charles Hayward,
T. B. M'Intyre,
D. W. Bradley,
Thos H. Shaw,
Walter Brown,
Benja. Young, Jr
Asa Barlow,
Stephen B. Dockum,
Charles Lowell,
Greenville Flint,
C. Rice,
A. Holton,
Warren Brown,
L. G. M'Kenny,
S. S. Herring,
Nath. Belcher,
A. J. Brown,
Sam. L. Clark,
Daniel Hodges,
Robert Moor,
John Lane,
M. S. Palmer,

Henry D. Cushing,
Charles Buck,
Aaron D. Lowell,
Wm. B. Harlow,
B. Hosford,
Geo. W. Pickering,
Waldo T. Peirce,
Nathan O. Gilmore,
Isaac C. Haynes,
Charles Hayes,
Freeland Holmes,
Joshua P. Dickinson,
Moses Haskell,
John True,
B. C. Atwood,
N. O. Pillsbury,
Hermon Fisher,
C. H. Hammond,
Geo. A. Peirce,
Dwight Allen,
J. W. Patten,
J. T. Hamilton,
Hiram Bradbury,
W. A. Gilman,
Albert Titcomb,
Benj. Plummer, Jr.
R. F. Webster,
Martin Dow,
Sam'l Graves,
G. W. Holden,
S. A. Hale,
H. A. Head,
Samuel Eastman,
Samuel Upton,
William Emerson,
Sam'l Lowder,
Isaac Hodsdon,
Levi Bradley,
Joseph Carr,
Thos. A. Hill,
John A. Poor,
Peleg Chandler,
Amos Patten,
Rufus K. Cushing,
John Mason,
John A. French,
J. W. Marden,
Timothy Call,
James Burton, Jr.
John Kingsbury,
Samuel Nelson,
Wm. Boynton,
Charles Stetson,
Enoch E. Brown,
Thomas A. White,
Geo. Fitts,

N. F. Bryant,
Rufus Parks,
Francis H. Upton,
Wm. Rice,
Richard Treat,
Joseph Richards,
John Barker, Jr.
Elmon Parker,
Hayward Peirce,
Thos. F. Hatch,
Hollis Bowman,
Abner Taylor,
Thomas A. Taylor,
Hazen Mitchell,
Joshua Carpenter,
Zadock Davis,
W. D. Williamson,
W. C. Crosby,
Alexander Savage,
Stevens Davis,
Daniel Boody,
John Wilkins,
John Fiske,
Moses Patten,
J. H. Bruce,
Samuel Call,
James M'Laughlin,
Samuel Ramsdell,
J. F. H. Hall,
A. M. Roberts,
A. R. Hallowell,
Peter Edes,
Edward Warren,
Stephen Giddings,
Wm. Abbot,
John Brown,
John S. Sayward,
Ephraim Lincoln,
J. H. Pillsbury,
J. R. Lambert,
George Leonard,
Otis Small,
Ebenezer Marston,
Fred. H. Allen,
C. S. Clark,
Sam. J. Foster,
Harvey Reed,
Eben French,
Jones P. Veazie,
Dominicus Parker,
Samuel Thatcher, Jr.
Ford Whitman,
Nathan B. Wiggin,
Thomas Drew,
Benj. Wyatt,
Hosea Rich,

A. G. Jewett,
Daniel T. Jewett,
Camillus Kidder
Moses Patten, Jr.
Romulus Haskins,

John Dupee,
Benj. Wingate,
Jas. H. Mitchell,
Sewall Stearns,
O. A. Brewer.

In pursuance of the above notice the citizens of Bangor met at the City Hall, on the 29th of August last. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. Thomas A. Hill. Hon. Allen Gilman, Mayor of the City, was chosen President, and Charles Stetson and Samuel J. Foster were appointed Secretaries.

The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Gorham Parks, A. G. Jewett and Horace Upton, and on motion,

Voted, That Messrs. Wm. Emerson, Jacob McGaw, Isaac Hodsdon, Amos Patten, Gorham Parks, Geo. B. Moody, James Crosby, Thomas A. Hill, Charles Stetson, A. G. Jewett, John Wilkins, Jonas Cutting, Geo. W. Pickering, A. M. Roberts, S. J. Foster, John Fiske, Solomon Parsons, Waldo T. Peirce, Ford Whitman, Thornton McGaw, and Elisha H. Allen be a Committee to take the subject which has been the occasion of this meeting into consideration, and to report at an adjourned meeting, such resolutions as in their opinion would express the views and feelings of the citizens of Bangor who are opposed to the measures of the Northern Abolitionists.

On motion of Hon. Gorham Parks,

Voted, That Hon. Allen Gilman be added to the Committee.

Voted, That the meeting adjourn to Friday evening, the 4th of September.

At the adjourned meeting holden on the 4th of September instant, the committee reported the following Preamble and Resolutions:—

SLAVERY, a moral and political evil, was from the earliest period in their history entailed upon many of the North American Colonies. By the force of circumstances, aided by peculiarities of climate and soil, and by moral influences fortunately operating, the burden was thrown off by some, before it had fastened itself like an incubus too firmly on the body politic to be resisted or removed. But it remained to oppress our brethren of the South, at the formation of the Union, and from that period to this, human ingenuity has failed to find for it an adequate remedy. By them, no less than by us, if the expressed opinions of many of their distinguished citi-

zons can be relied on, is it regarded as an affliction and a curse—and many a generous Southern heart would bound with exultation for the sake of relieved humanity, with rapture for the safety of himself and the cherished objects of his house hold and for the security of his posterity; if by some magic influence the Blacks that throng his estate and his country, emancipated, could be dismissed to the shores of their native Africa, and their places supplied by a free and industrious population of whites. Gladly as they would hail such a result, can it be doubted that the citizens of the South, goaded by evils, to us the mere creatures of report or imagination, but to them the stern realities of the present or the dread anticipations of the future, with a perfect appreciation of their rights and their powers and with the generous sentiments so common to the South, will at proper times and by suitable measures, strive to remove so formidable an evil as the existence of slavery from their institutions—May not the friends of humanity safely leave its interests to those, who however innocent, are, and are likely to continue the principal sufferers from its violation?

Such are some of the views which the rational friends of Liberty should address to the consideration of those individuals of the Northern States, who, forming themselves into Anti-Slavery Societies, by means of the press, the pulpit, and by emissaries sent into the Southern States are advocating with little discretion, but with zeal worthy a better cause, the immediate and universal emancipation of the Blacks. Let them consider too, that such is the constitution of human nature, that the interference of a stranger even when supported by right, in that which more especially concerns and interests another, seldom fails to defeat its own ends, and often converts into a storm what was before but a threatening cloud. If this be true between individuals, and in private life, let *them* beware of the results, to themselves no less than to others, who, with whatever excellence of motives, tamper unasked with the concerns of men congregated into masses or bodies politic—Most of all let the associated Abolitionists of the Northern States, however Christian, however humane, however benevolent their motives in behalf of the inalienable Rights of man, pause and reflect whether the handbill that couples in denunciation the master with the kidnapper, which points the slave on one side to enchanting tho' exaggerated pictures of the freedom from which he

has been torn, while by way of contrast it shows him on the other, the lash in the hands of his master ready to lacerate his unprotected body, can consistently with the principles of human nature have better effects than to rivet the chains on the object of their compassion, which they design to unloose, to excite the slave to mutiny, and to fill with bitter hostility the mind of the master, against the enemy who thus throws firebrands into his enclosure.

Let them beware when they contemplate the stern results which *must* follow, nay more, which have in many instances already followed their unauthorized and reckless interference. Mutiny, murder and disunion of the States are the direct tendencies and will be the inevitable consequences of the continuance of the abolition measures heretofore adopted. We say disunion—for how long can the Union last when mutual respect, confidence and kindness, its best elements are gone.

And what are their own dangers? If we deem not the language too strong, that would condemn the Empiric as a Felon who should plunge a dagger to the heart of his patient, lest the imposthume on his limb should one day destroy his life, shall he or they, who strike a blow at the vitality of the Union, to stay the progress of an evil in one of its members, be considered less worthy retribution for an offence transcendently greater in its guilt, and more ruinous in its consequences?

The citizens of Bangor, assembled with great unanimity under the influence of a sense of duty to their Southern brethren, and to assure them, in common with the citizens of many other portions of the North, that the number among them who advocate immediate emancipation is small and inconsiderable, believe that the occasion called for the expression of their opinions on this exciting subject, viewing it first distinctly in a moral light, and as a question affecting the prosperity of our common country, without regard to its constitutional bearings—and these opinions would not be shaken, if the right of the followers of Garrison and Thompson to the undisturbed dissemination of their doctrines in the South, was as clear and indisputable, as it is manifestly inadmissible and unfounded—alike unwarranted by the Constitution, and revolting to common sense.

But the people of Bangor are not unacquainted with that Constitution, and they acknowledge most explicitly that that instrument has left the subject of slavery as it found it, a matter of in-

6
ternal regulation and policy, under the exclusive control of the State governments; that none of the States at the formation of the Union gave up to Congress the power of interfering with it—that the Constitution guarantees to every State, the integrity of its territory, and recognizes its entire and unparticipated right to regulate its internal and domestic concerns in its own way.

And while they acknowledge in the words of the Constitution that “all powers not prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively,” they regard all the States as being excluded from mutual interference on the subject of the relation of Master and Slave, and look upon it as a violation of the spirit of that instrument for individuals, whether separately or in associations, to interfere unasked, and more emphatically when such interference is earnestly deprecated, with any of the domestic affairs or relations of another State.—And although the abstract opinions on the subject of slavery, of many of the promoters of the schemes which have so excited the South, may meet our approbation, yet the abolitionists should remember as a truth, that from opinions we approve, frequently spring actions we condemn, and we therefore, express our unequivocal reprobation of the measures heretofore pursued and now prosecuted by them, believing that if unchecked they will plunge our brethren of the South into the incalculable horrors of a servile war, and result in the dissolution of the confederacy which has united so many small States into one people, unrivalled for their greatness, unexampled for their prosperity.

Therefore, Resolved, That the citizens of the South have our warmest sympathy, no less for the unavoidable evils of a system entailed on them without their co-operation, and for which they are in no respect answerable, than for those already inflicted, or seriously apprehended from the unauthorized interference of the Abolition Societies of the North.

Resolved, That the publication, and distribution in the Southern States, of pamphlets rightly denominated incendiary, which are calculated to sow dissension between Master and Slave, merit from every patriot and every friend of humanity, and receive from us, unqualified condemnation and rebuke.

Resolved, That by becoming parties to the compact between the States, and adopting the

Constitution under which we live, the people of the Northern States bound themselves never to attempt to influence or control the internal policy or domestic institutions of the States of the South, without their consent, and that consequently any intermeddling with the condition of Slavery as it exists in those States, is unauthorized by and hostile to the spirit of the Constitution.

Resolved, That the measures of the Abolition Societies have already impaired, and if unchecked are likely at no distant day to destroy, the friendly feelings and friendly relations, now existing between the North and South, which relations every American should delight to cherish, not only for themselves, but because by their continuance alone can the Union of the States be perpetuated.

Resolved, That for reasons before enumerated we discountenance and condemn, and will by all lawful means discourage, the formation and continuance of Anti-Slavery Societies in the Northern States.

Resolved, That the people of the North have no direct interest in the continuance or extinction of Slavery in the South, and therefore that the discussion of the subject here, is equally unnecessary and unprofitable, while it leads to efforts there, ruinous to the peace of the South and dangerous to the Union of the States.

Resolved, That in the philanthropy, sound judgment and rectitude of purpose of our Southern brethren, no less than in their enlightened self interest, and their actual experience of the burdens of Slavery, we have the most satisfactory assurances that they will leave no judicious means untried, and lose no favorable opportunities for accomplishing its abolition.

Resolved, That the Constitution, in the language of its preamble, is well calculated to perfect “Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty,” and being the supreme law of the land, every provision it contains is alike obligatory on the people of these United States.

Resolved, That instructed by recent disastrous events in the South, as to the actual tendencies of their measures, to produce dissension and bloodshed, by the stern determination there ex-

hibited to resist their unwarrantable attempts to extremity, and by the manifestations of public opinion in the Northern States against their proceedings, the Northern Abolitionists, if they persist in their designs, will justly subject themselves to the imputation of deliberately intending to bring upon their country the dreadful evils of insurrection and disunion.

Resolved, That a portion of the Clergy of the Northern States, in becoming leading and active members of the Anti-Slavery and Abolition Societies, and in advocating their rash measures, incur the risk of diminishing the influence they might otherwise exert in the cause of Religion, of forfeiting that respect for their Body which the People of the North have ever shown themselves disposed to award them when engaged in the exalted duties of their profession, and of counteracting the divine principle which enjoins Peace on Earth and good will to men.

Resolved, That the publication at the North and distribution at the South of such papers as the Human Rights, The Emancipator, Liberator, &c., is a shameful abuse of that freedom of the press which the Constitution declares shall not be abridged.

Resolved, That the American Union is the

brightest realization of the hopes of every lover of Liberty that the world has seen; the ark of safety to all associated under it—their protection alike from foreign aggression and domestic violence—the pledge of present prosperity—of future greatness; and that we will discountenance, indignantly, every attempt, however indirect, to undermine its stability, emulating the noble spirit of its founders, who pledged to its formation “their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.”

The foregoing preamble and resolutions having been discussed by Messrs. Jacob McGaw, Amos Patten, Samuel Call, Samuel Lowder and Samuel Upton, it was unanimously voted to adopt the same as conveying a just expression of the views and sentiments of this meeting.

On motion of Nathaniel Haynes, Esq.,

Voted, That the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the President and Secretaries, be printed in the papers published in this City, and a copy thereof sent to each Governor of the States.

ALLEN GILMAN, President.

CHARLES STETSON, }
SAMUEL J. FOSTER, } Secretaries.