

Massachusetts Legislature. REPORTS AND RESOLVES. COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Joint Senate and House of Representatives, to whom were referred the petition of Spencer Vining, and 222 others, of Andover, and many other petitions of the same tenor, praying for the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia and the territories, and the slave trade between the several States, and also to refer to the petition of Nathaniel Webster and 130 others of Haverhill, and many other petitions of the same tenor, relating to the admission of new States into the Union, and to whom were also referred the petition of Windsor Morse of West Boylston, and many other petitions of the same tenor, praying for the restriction and abolition, having considered the subject so submitted to them, ask leave to

REPORT. It is believed by your committee, that on the petition of the power of Congress to do the various things which are specifically enumerated by the petition, as respects the slave trade in the District of Columbia, there is almost entire unanimity of sentiment in this Commonwealth. Few are found to dissent from the sense of the Convention of the States, which gave Congress power to exercise exclusive jurisdiction in all cases whatever within the district which is the seat of our national government. It is the sense of the Convention of the fourth article which provides that Congress shall have power to dispose of, and regulate the slave trade, and to regulate the slave trade in all territories which may be acquired by the United States, and that under which the old Congress of 1787, with the hearty concurrence of the States, gave Congress power to regulate the slave trade forever, or so much of the territory as may lie within certain parallels of latitude; and that in the same section which provides that Congress shall have power to dispose of, and regulate the slave trade, and to regulate the slave trade in all territories which may be acquired by the United States, it leaves the general government entirely at liberty to refuse such admission, except upon such restrictions as may appear just and reasonable. It is the sense of the Convention of 1787, and of the Convention of 1789, that Congress should have power to regulate the slave trade in all territories which may be acquired by the United States, and that under which the old Congress of 1787, with the hearty concurrence of the States, gave Congress power to regulate the slave trade forever, or so much of the territory as may lie within certain parallels of latitude; and that in the same section which provides that Congress shall have power to dispose of, and regulate the slave trade, and to regulate the slave trade in all territories which may be acquired by the United States, it leaves the general government entirely at liberty to refuse such admission, except upon such restrictions as may appear just and reasonable.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Joint Senate and House of Representatives, to whom were referred the petition of James P. Boyce and 242 other legal voters of Lynn, and many other petitions similar in tenor or import, signed in all by 3,674 names, and 282 petitions of the same tenor, praying for the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and the territories, and the slave trade between the several States, and also to refer to the petition of Nathaniel Webster and 130 others of Haverhill, and many other petitions of the same tenor, relating to the admission of new States into the Union, and to whom were also referred the petition of Windsor Morse of West Boylston, and many other petitions of the same tenor, praying for the restriction and abolition, having considered the subject so submitted to them, ask leave to

REPORT. The State provisions specified in most of the above described petitions, are as follows: "No white person shall marry with a negro, Indian, or mulatto, or with a child of either of them; and all marriages between a white person and a negro, Indian, or mulatto, shall, if solemnized within this State, be absolutely void, without any legal process." Revised Statutes, ch. 76, sec. 1. A part of the petition which has come before the Committee, do not set forth the above provisions, but simply state that the laws of this Commonwealth make a distinction between its citizens on account of complexion. There is no doubt that the prayer of these last named petitions is intended to annul the provisions of law, above set forth; but it is proper to remark, that your Committee has no evidence that the law does in fact make distinctions between citizens on account of complexion; and the circumstance of the marriage of certain races, and the circumstance of color, is merely one of the evidences by which the Legislature is enabled to ascertain the true nature of the race. It is also understood to refer in part to the exemption of colored persons from service in the militia, which is intended to annul the provisions of law, above set forth; but it is proper to remark, that your Committee has no evidence that the law does in fact make distinctions between citizens on account of complexion; and the circumstance of the marriage of certain races, and the circumstance of color, is merely one of the evidences by which the Legislature is enabled to ascertain the true nature of the race.

disclaim all interference or violation of interference with the domestic institutions of any State; and, on the other hand, upon the exercise of our constitutional rights in furtherance of the cause of justice and humanity, upon the domain which we hold as citizens of the world.

Resolved, That the domestic slave trade ought to be abolished by Congress, without delay. Resolved, That no Senator or Representative be admitted into the Union, whose constitution shall tolerate domestic slavery. Resolved, That the Senate in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their utmost efforts to give effect to the foregoing resolves. Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of the Senators and Representatives from Massachusetts in Congress.

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of such from the nearest magistrate." No law of this description, by the framers of the book of Massachusetts; but would any person whose opinion was entitled to respect, hazard the expression of an opinion that, by failing to re-assert that law, we are actually sanctioning and approving the practice of "drawing away the affections of maidens," without first obtaining liberty and allowance from their parents, governors, or the nearest magistrate? There is no need of a labored argument to repel so shallow an inference.

Resolved, That the manner in which the petitions of the people of the Commonwealth, in laying the question of the right of petition, and a proceeding to stop the progress of reform, or the spread of fanaticism; and naturally and inevitably increasing agitation and excitement in all parts of the Republic. Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of the Senators and Representatives in Congress, with request that they be laid before both branches of that body.

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SELECTIONS. From the Friend of Man. Letter from Gerrit Smith. Dear Brother Garrison,--Bodily ailments have already confined me nearly a month, and I see no prospect of a speedy recovery from my confinement. The Liberator, however, has come to hand this morn-

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WHOLE NUMBER, 423. THE LIBERATOR. BOSTON. FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1840.

Letter to Gerrit Smith. In the Liberator of August 30, 1839, I received a letter from you, complaining of the manner in which I had many thought proper to bring before the last annual meeting of the American A. S. Society...

When you speak of the delay of which has been wholly unexcusable, I am sorry to hear, and I am glad to hear that you have not attempted to answer your objections...

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I do not see the analogy between the cause of the abolitionist and the non-resistance. The being of God is expressly acknowledged in our Constitution, but not a word is said about going to the polls...

You express your belief that I opposed a constitutional resolution, because of the charge that had been made in place in my views of civil government...

You add—I do not see that, in both cases, the charge is equally groundless. I do not see that it was voted; but that it does, in any degree, justify a negative vote, I cannot perceive...

You continue—The American A. S. Society should have its members perfectly free to become Non-Resistant, Perfectionists, Agrarians, or what not...

Non-resistance does not wish to 'impede,' or 'modify' the action of the Society, or to alter the Constitution in consequence of the present controversy...

The Society of Friends at sea, is not the Society of Friends as it is. It is not the Society of Friends as it is. It is not the Society of Friends as it is.

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THE VICTORY WON! Our revolutionary fathers fought seven years for a principle. The abolitionists of this country have contended for as long a period, for a word—a word, however, which is the essence of the anti-slavery cause...

By the arrival of the British Consul at New-York, intelligence is conveyed of the death of JAMES CROFT, a Liverpool merchant, and member of the Society of Friends...

The Legislature has also adopted resolutions, expressed in an abolition dialect, boldly and emphatically protesting in the name of the people against the delay in passing the bill for the abolition of the slave trade...

Next week we shall lay before our readers a list of the petitions to the Legislature, and of the Ayes and Noes on the several questions—a sketch of the debates, with suitable comments, &c. &c.

Consul Trist and Dr. Madden. A letter to Wm. E. Channing, D.D. in reply to one addressed to him by R. R. Madden, on the abuse of the flag of the United States in the Island of Cuba...

Mr. Madden states, in his letter to Dr. Channing, that the Spanish slave trade has gradually increased since the year 1825, to about 200,000 per annum.

The other charges of Dr. Madden are severally examined, some of which are admitted in part, while others are flatly denied.

At the conclusion of his Letter, the reviewer certifies to be deeply moved in view of the conduct of certain American merchants and shipmasters. He says:—

Death of James Croft. By the arrival of the British Consul at New-York, intelligence is conveyed of the death of JAMES CROFT, a Liverpool merchant, and member of the Society of Friends...

The Anti-Slavery Cause in England. We have received the first two numbers of a new periodical which was commenced in London in January last, entitled 'THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER.'

At a meeting of the Glasgow Emancipation Society held in January, which was addressed by George Thompson, the following resolutions were adopted:—

It is stated in the Reporter, that Messrs. Alexander, Scoble and Whitehead had left London for Paris, on anti-slavery business, on the 23d of January.

Annual Meeting of the American Society. It appears, by the following letter from Mr. Birney, that the Executive Committee at New-York do not think it expedient to alter the time of holding the annual meeting of the Parent Society...

Office of the American A. S. Society. New-York, March 20, 1840.

Dear Sir, The 16th instant, communicating the request of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society...

Wm. L. Garrison, Cor. Sec. Boston.

Encouraged by the success of the past year, we commence a second volume of the 'CATHARTIC' with confidence upon the spirit of our anti-slavery friends, throughout the Commonwealth...

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POETRY

From the Pennsylvania Freeman.

Imparting the continuance of slavery to the criminal indifference of the masses in the general... THE LEXINGTON... For us they languish and for us they die...

EQUALITY OF THE SEXES

From the Connecticut Observer.

The Woman's Question. Were it possible, in the commencement of an error, to find the public mind directed of all...

MISCELLANEOUS

From the Union Herald.

A Christian Reformer. A reformatory system. His warfare against sin and defilement. It is nothing to do with a dog's snout...

THE DELAWARE (OHIO) GAZETTE

A correspondent of the Delaware (Ohio) Gazette says, that by extracting from a dog's snout...

IMPARTIAL RAILWAY DISCOVERY

The Prussian State Gazette informs us that a M. Kalkenheimer has invented a new kind of carriage for railways...

HENRY A. NEWHALL

45 HERRING STREET. (Under White Building Room). BOSTON. DETAIL dealer in Calicoes, Shawings, Blankets...

COLE'S PARAGON

THOMAS COLE returns his thanks to the public for the liberal patronage he has received...

Advertisements and notices on the right margin, including 'Hats, Caps, Stocks and Trunks' and 'Despotism in America'.