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WH. LLOYD GARRISON, Editor. VOL. X.—NO. 16.

Massachusetts Legislature.

Reported for the Liberator. Debate on the Resolves Concerning the Right of Petition.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Wednesday, March 10, 1840.

The question being on the passage of the resolves in their present form, Mr. BARNSTABLE, rose and said, that he had the honor to be called upon to deliver a speech on the subject of the petition of the people of Massachusetts, in relation to the right of petition. He had the honor to be called upon to deliver a speech on the subject of the petition of the people of Massachusetts, in relation to the right of petition. He had the honor to be called upon to deliver a speech on the subject of the petition of the people of Massachusetts, in relation to the right of petition.

Mr. WALKLEY, of Roxbury, agreed, generally, in the object which he supposed was had in view by the resolves, by the gentleman from Nantucket. He did not like the fifth and sixth resolutions, but he did not like the fourth either, and would move to strike out its latter clause, which pronounced the right of the U. S. Senate a procedure not less sacred in effect, than that of the Representatives.

Mr. WALKLEY justified his amendment. He wished to have the main question put to the House in the freest and most unobstructed manner possible. He did not think it worth while to say a word of the 5th Resolution, which was, in his opinion, both unphilosophical and absurd; but all agreed, and all wished to say, that it was a virtual denial of the right of petition, that it was a virtual wrong upon those who had the right of petition, and he wished that the resolves might be so amended that there might be a strong expression in favor of the main principle, untrammelled by any collateral propositions.

Mr. BARNSTABLE asked leave to explain. The gentleman from Roxbury had taken the meaning of the fifth vote. It made no change whatever among members of Congress. It simply pronounced that to be corrupt, which could not endure the light of investigation. It amounted to no more than a simple declaration, that the House would not be bound by the resolutions, and he was unwilling to sanction such a declaration.

OUR COUNTRY IS THE WORLD—OUR COUNTRYMEN ARE ALL HUMANITY.

BOSTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1840.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12. Mr. BRADBURY said, that if the gentleman from Roxbury would withdraw his amendments, he would himself propose some, which, from the debates of numerous members of the House, he did not doubt would remove all, or nearly all, the objections which gentlemen had urged against the resolves. He had been led to take this course, not because he was well satisfied with the resolves as they now stood, but because he was desirous of securing harmony of action in relation to them, and because, moreover, he was always disposed, when he could do so without any sacrifice of principle, to concede something to those who honestly differed from himself in opinion.

Mr. BRADBURY, after correcting certain grammatical errors, which had occurred in the printing of the resolves, moved that the word 'despotism' in the first resolve be stricken out, and the word 'power' inserted in its place. He proposed this amendment, because the word despotism sounded rather harsh to some ears, and also for the reason, that the phrase 'absolute despotism' was in some sort tautologous. He would move also to strike out the word 'and' in the second resolve, and to insert the word 'or' in its place. He did so, because it was not essential to the object of the Committee, and he was disposed to conciliate as many as possible.

Mr. LINCOLN, of Worcester, moved to strike out the word 'absolute' in the resolve just amended; and he therefor moved to strike out the word 'and' in the second resolve, and to insert the word 'or' in its place. He moved to strike out the word 'and' in the second resolve, and to insert the word 'or' in its place. He moved to strike out the word 'and' in the second resolve, and to insert the word 'or' in its place.

Mr. CURTIS, of Boston, took exception to the phraseology of the 2d resolve, which contained the protest of the legislature against the obnoxious resolve 'as being void in its inception and of no binding force upon the people, or their representatives.' He thought it would be better to say, 'and that it was void in its inception, and of no binding force upon the people, or their representatives.'

He was decidedly in favor of all the other resolutions. He was opposed to this, because he believed that it was not a question of the right of petition, but of the right of the House of Representatives to frame its own rules and orders. The people could not get the right of petition, but they could get the right of the House of Representatives to frame its own rules and orders.

Mr. WARD, of Danvers, asked if Congress (or one House thereof) should be questioned by the people, or whether the members arrested for violating that rule would have a right to the habeas corpus, or some legal remedy. Mr. CURTIS said that of course a member would have his means of defence from a gross violation of positive right.

Mr. ALLEN, of Worcester, was opposed to striking out. He liked the language of the resolve; he did not ask the House of Representatives to repeal it, he asked them to disregard it as a void thing, as he thought it was. It was not a question of the right of petition, but of the right of the House of Representatives to frame its own rules and orders.

Mr. PARSONS, of Boston, was inclined to think that the most important resolution of all, was the one which related to the right of petition. He was in favor of the resolves, and he wished to have the members of that House to have the sanction of this Legislature in acting upon a similar bill.

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BOSTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1840.

Mr. BRADBURY renewed the motion, he made yesterday, that when the question was taken, it should be taken by yeas and nays. The resolves were adopted—yeas, 83; nays, 11.

Mr. BRADBURY, after correcting certain grammatical errors, which had occurred in the printing of the resolves, moved that the word 'despotism' in the first resolve be stricken out, and the word 'power' inserted in its place. He proposed this amendment, because the word despotism sounded rather harsh to some ears, and also for the reason, that the phrase 'absolute despotism' was in some sort tautologous.

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