

William C. Nell, in behalf of the Committee, submitted the following resolutions:—

Whereas, however deeply other classes may be interested in the question of slavery, and injured by its existence and extension, it is still the colored race upon whom the burden of its yoke, and the galling prejudice that springs from it, bear with the most deadly weight; and,

Whereas, if the cruel provisions of the Bill for the recovery of fugitive slaves, now before the U.S. Senate, should pass into law, it is *our households* and *our children* which will be outraged by its atrocious violations of all legal provisions for the security of citizens, and even of the Constitution of the United States; therefore,

Resolved, That this meeting, composed of nominally free colored citizens of Boston and vicinity, and in part of those who have drunk deep the dregs of slavery, are pained to the heart's core, in view of the recent speech of the Hon. Daniel Webster upon slavery, surrendering the new territories to the slaveholder, and volunteering the sanction of his name and influence to the Bill before the Senate, which deprives the fugitive of a trial by jury, in testing his claim to himself, and enables the claimant to drag his victim before any United States officer, superior or petty, and consign him or her (as the case may be) to a bondage beyond all hope of an exodus therefrom—allowing the slave-hunter his oath, and prohibiting it to the fugitive; which punishes with a fine of one thousand dollars and twelve months' imprisonment, any one who shall aid or assist the fugitive to escape his pursuer;—and the expression of his willingness to vote two hundred millions of dollars

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of the public money for expelling the free colored population; a scheme of infinite wickedness, and which, as every one knows, is calculated to rivet more firmly the chains upon the wretched bondman.

Resolved, That we, his constituents, remembering the glow of pride with which we have read his famed speech on Plymouth Rock, denouncing the slave trade, and his welcome extended to the *Hungarian* fugitives, the eloquent echoes of which yet linger in every heart, had nursed the hope that in the contest with Slavery, his clarion voice would have been the loudest heard in defence of the right.

Resolved, That the ominous fact of Calhoun and other Senators congratulating Mr. Webster for the services thus rendered them by this speech, should have suggested the question, What treason to liberty have I been guilty of, that such men should applaud my effort?

Resolved, That Mr. Webster's recreancy to Freedom, and total disregard of the sentiments of almost the entire North, but render more brilliant by contrast, and still more eminently deserving our heartfelt gratitude, the efforts of that Spartan band of Northern members, who, by *speech* and *vote*, have to the present hour been found valiant for God and Liberty; especially Allen and Fowler of Massachusetts, Seward of New York, Stevens of Pennsylvania, Hale of New Hampshire, Root, Chase and Giddings of Ohio.

Resolved, That the ties of interest and consanguinity between the Northern nominally free colored man and the pining slave on Southern plantations are inseparable; in the appropriate language of Daniel

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Webster, when alluding to the two great sections of country, 'There shall be no Alleghancies between us;' and despite the influence and counsels of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Cass and Co., we solemnly declare our united and unalterable opposition to the scheme of African Colonization, as also to every other plan for perpetuating the God-defying system of American slavery.

Resolved, That we are duly mindful of the protection which the legislation of recent years has introduced into the Revised Statutes of the Old Bay State, God bless her—to whom we trust ever to prove loyal. Yet if her power is superseded by the National Government, and we—men, women and children—are liable to become victims of the prowling man-thief, we have no protection but such as the God of nature bestows upon us, and which, his power sustaining us, we will avail ourselves of; and Heaven defend the right!

Resolved, That whereas the crisis has arrived when the liberties of every colored man are at stake; it is their duty, as members of the human family, to enter into a solemn pledge, that come what will, their motto will be, Liberty or Death.

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