

U.S. 34th Congress. 1st sess., 1855-1856.  
Senate.

34TH CONGRESS, } SENATE. } MIS. DOC.  
1st Session. } } No. 15.

[Miscellaneous documents concerning the admission of Kansas into the Union]

## RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

### LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,

RELATIVE TO

*The acts of Congress admitting California into the Union, fixing the boundary of Texas, establishing territorial governments in Utah and New Mexico, the fugitive-slave law, and the Kansas-Nebraska act.*

FEBRUARY 6, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

#### JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

First. *Resolved*, by the legislature of the State of Texas, That this State regards the acts of Congress passed in 1850, admitting California into the Union, fixing the boundary of Texas, establishing territorial governments in Utah and New Mexico, composing a part of what is commonly called the compromise measures of 1850, as questions fully settled, so far as they have relation to the question of slavery, and that Texas is opposed to any change in those laws affecting their principles on the great questions which have unhappily divided the northern and southern States of the Union.

Second. *Resolved*, That the State of Texas regards the remaining act of the compromise measures of 1850, commonly called the fugitive-slave law, as a measure of constitutional right and justice to the slaveholding States, essential to their peace and the preservation of their rights, and that she would look upon the repeal or modification of that act as an invasion of her constitutional rights and a just cause of alarm to herself and her sister States of the south.

Third. *Resolved*, That the State of Texas regards the late act of the United States Congress, known as the Kansas-Nebraska act, whereby those Territories are thrown open to settlement alike by citizens from the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, as a measure founded in the true spirit of the federal Constitution, of justice to all parts of the Union, and of vital importance to the southern States of the confederacy, as well as the permanent peace of the nation; and while this State utterly opposes the repeal of that law, or any modification of its provisions affecting the emigration or rights of slaveholders in said Territories, she, in common with her sister States of the south, would regard such repeal or modification as an invasion of the true spirit of the Constitution of the United States, as sectional in its char-

acter, and as a just cause of alarm on the part of the slaveholding States; that the governor cause copies of this resolution to be forwarded to each of our senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States, duly authenticated.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Austin, January 10, 1856.

I, Edward Clark, secretary of state for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing transcript is a correct copy of the original enrolled joint resolutions on file in this department.

Witness my hand and the seal of the department the day and year [L. s.] aforesaid.

EDWARD CLARK,  
Secretary of State.

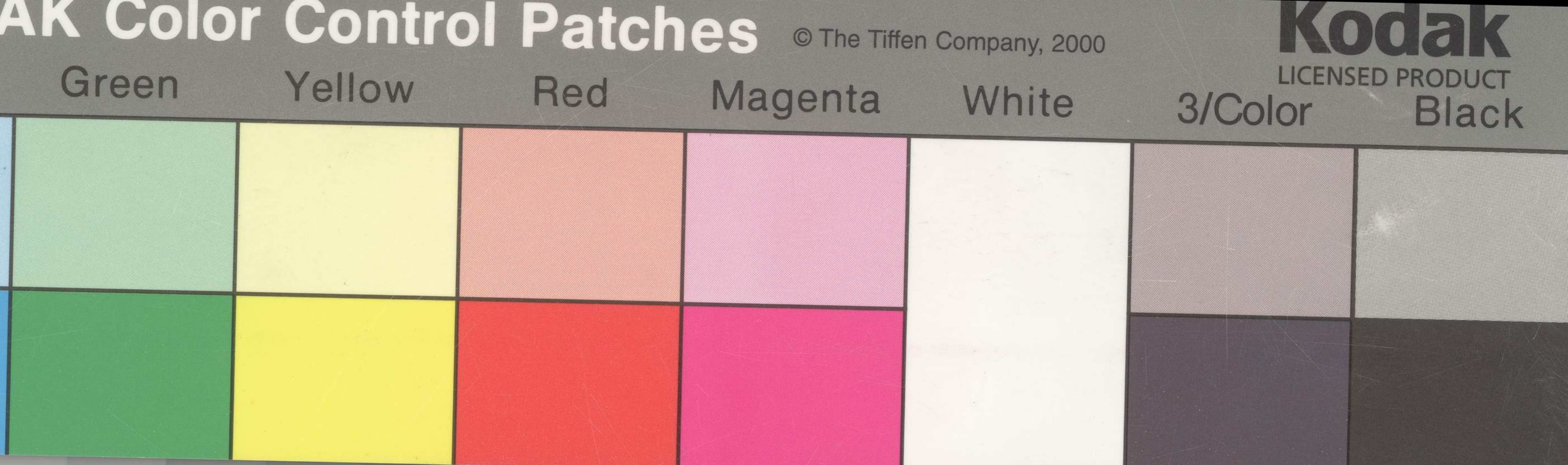
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34TH CONGRESS, }  
1st Session. }

SENATE.

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{ No. 66.

## RESOLUTIONS

OF

### THE LEGISLATURE OF RHODE ISLAND,

RELATIVE TO

*The recent assault upon the Hon. Mr. Sumner, and the disturbances in  
the Territory of Kansas.*

JUNE 16, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY SESSION, A. D. 1856.

RESOLUTIONS concerning the recent occurrences in Congress and in Kansas.

*Resolved*, by this general assembly, the senate and house of representatives concurring therein :

That the recent assault committed on the person of a senator from Massachusetts, on the floor of the Senate chamber of the United States, by a representative from South Carolina, is an outrage, the commission of which in a civilized community, no provocation can justify, and the enormity of which no excuse can palliate; and that the people have a right to claim of their representatives, that the authors and contrivers of an assault so brutal and so cowardly, shall at once be expelled from the Congress of the nation.

*Resolved*, That the assault thus made on a senator for words spoken in debate, and the conduct of those political friends of the offender who sought to prevent an investigation into the offence, show a deliberate attempt to stifle freedom of speech in the national councils, and deserve the indignant rebuke, and the uncompromising opposition of all who love their freedom and who wish to maintain it.

*Resolved*, That this outrage, in connexion with the acts of violence just perpetrated in Kansas, admonish us that a determination exists on the part of those now wielding the power of the general government to crush the advocates and upholders of freedom in free territory by force, bloodshed and civil war; and that the perversion of the power delegated by a free people for the preservation of their freedom to purposes of injustice, tyranny, and oppression, demands the union and active co-operation of all who deserve to enjoy the blessings of liberty, for the purpose of placing the government in the hands of

those who will conduct it with due regard to the rights of freemen, and the liberties of the people.

*Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to each of the senators and members of the house of representatives from this State in Congress of the United States.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
*Providence, June 2, 1856.*

SIR: In pursuance of the last of the above resolutions, I hereby transmit a copy of the resolutions passed by the legislature of this State, at its recent May session.

By order of the governor,

JAMES R. BARTLETT,  
*Secretary of State.*

Hon. CHARLES T. JAMES,  
*United States Senate.*

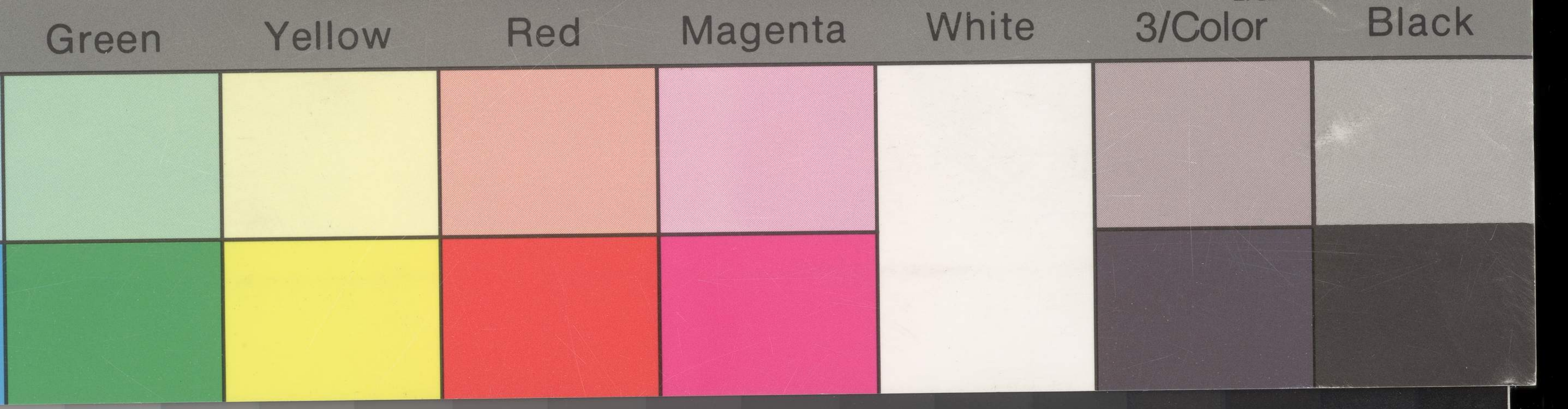
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34TH CONGRESS, }  
1st Session. }

SENATE.

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{ No. 49.

## RESOLUTIONS

OF

### THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO,

IN FAVOR OF

*The prohibition of slavery in Territories of the United States, and the immediate admission of Kansas into the Union as a State.*

MAY 5, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF OHIO.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS relative to Kansas affairs.

Whereas, the original policy of our country contemplated no extension of slavery beyond the limits of slave States, and no increase of the number of such States; and whereas experience has sufficiently proven that every departure from that policy has been productive of evil, and of evil only; and whereas, by the repeal of the slavery prohibition of the Missouri compromise, the whole question of slavery, in its relation to the Union, the States, and the Territories, has been reopened; and whereas the people of Kansas, deprived of the protection of that prohibition, and despoiled by armed invasion of their undoubted right to elect their own representatives, have been compelled to choose between the alternatives of resort to the inherent right of every community, in the absence of valid laws, to provide for its own safety and good order, or submission to the unauthorized edicts of a pretended legislature, seeking to compel the admission of slavery by appointing its own creatures to all territorial offices, whether executive or judicial, and by imposing such restrictions upon the right of suffrage at future elections as will exclude the opponents of slavery from the polls; and whereas the people of Kansas, properly adopting the former alternative, have proceeded to elect a delegate to Congress, and to form for themselves a State constitution with a view to application for admission into the Union; and whereas it is the duty, in the judgment of this general assembly, of the federal government, and of the people of the several States, to unite their efforts to save the Territory of Kansas from the renewal of civil tumult, and from the further shedding of blood: Be it therefore—

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That the cause*

of the people of Kansas, engaged in defending themselves against lawless violence and in asserting their inherent right of self-government, be and hereby is earnestly commended to the warm sympathies of the people of Ohio.

*Resolved*, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and representatives requested, to oppose all acts and measures which tend to recognise as legal and binding any of the acts of the pretended legislature of Kansas, held at Shawnee Mission.

*Resolved*, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and representatives requested, to use their best endeavors for the immediate passage of an act of Congress admitting Kansas into the Union as a free State, with such limitation of boundary as by Congress shall be deemed advisable; and in case Congress shall not consent to such admission, then to use their best endeavors to secure the passage of acts enabling the people of that Territory to elect their own governor and other officers, and fully protect them in the exercise of the elective franchise.

*Resolved*, That our senators in Congress be further instructed, and our representatives requested, to use their best endeavors to secure the passage of laws prohibiting slavery in the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and all territory embraced in the Missouri compromise, and re-establishing the original American policy as declared in the regulation proposed by Thomas Jefferson in 1784 for the exclusion of slavery from all territory ceded, or to be ceded, and of such other laws as shall best fulfil the high duty repeatedly acknowledged by the people of Ohio, of using all power clearly given by the terms of the national compact, to prevent the increase, to mitigate, and finally eradicate the evil of slavery, without encroaching upon, or in any way legislating upon the right of each State to adopt and modify its own municipal laws, to regulate its own internal affairs, and to hold and maintain its equal and independent sovereignty with each and every other State.

*Resolved*, That the governor be requested to cause a copy of this preamble and resolutions, properly certified, to be forwarded to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, and the governor of each State in the Union.

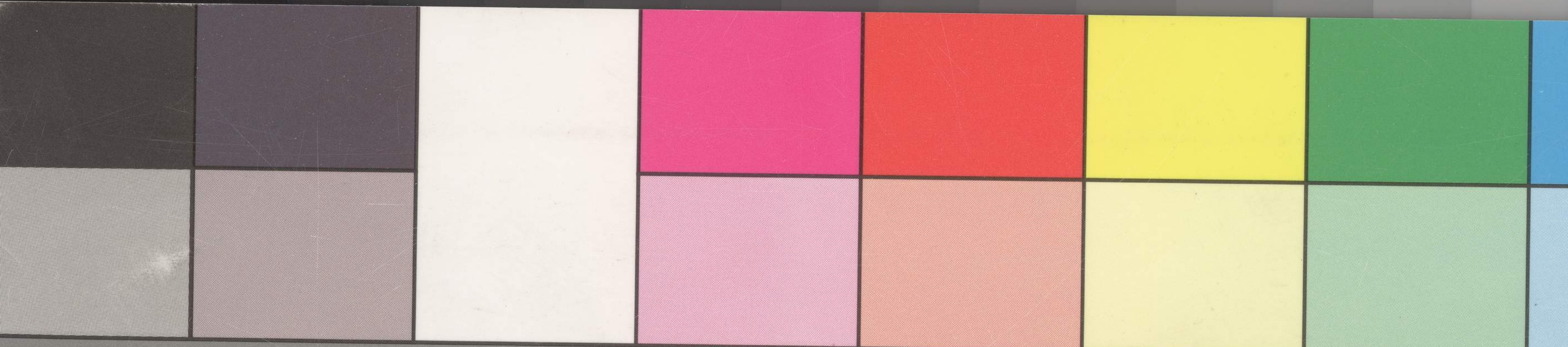
N. H. VAN VORHES,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
THOMAS H. FORD,  
*President of the Senate.*

APRIL 9, 1856.

STATE OF OHIO.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,  
*Columbus, April 26, 1856.*

I, James H. Baker, Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of a preamble and resolutions





RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO.

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passed by the general assembly of this State, copied from the original roll on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand, and affix  
[L. s.] the great seal of the State of Ohio, at Columbus, this  
26th day of April, A. D. 1856.

JAMES H. BAKER,  
*Secretary of State.*

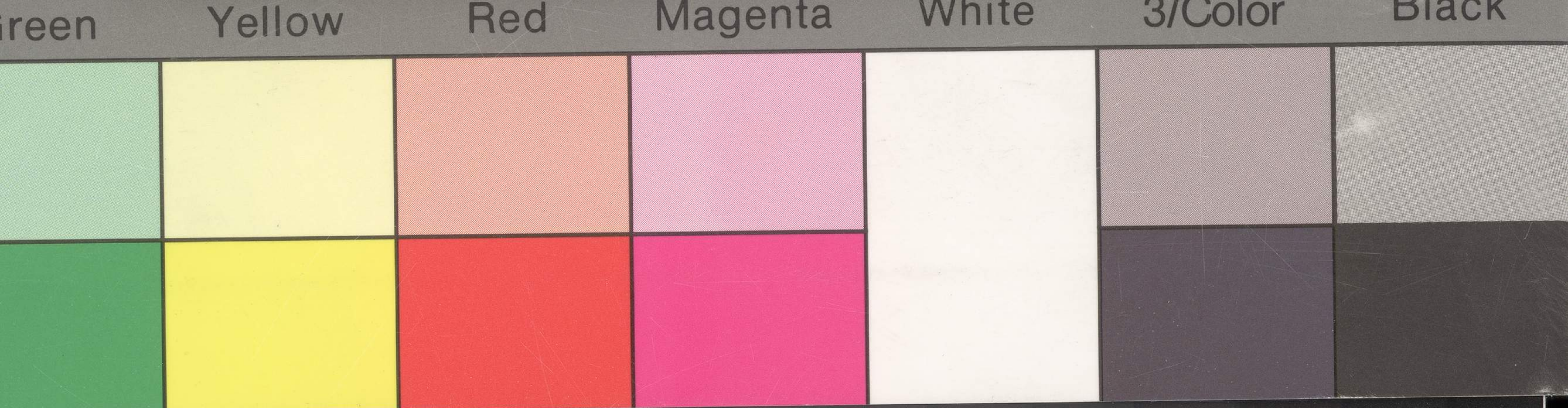
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Columbus, Ohio, April 30, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a preamble and resolutions, passed by the legislature of this State, agreeably to the requirements of said resolutions.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. CHASE,  
*Governor of Ohio.*

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34TH CONGRESS, }  
1st Session. }

SENATE.

{ MIS. Doc.  
{ No. 80.

## RESOLUTIONS

OF

### THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

*Respecting the late disturbances in Kansas, and the assault upon the  
Hon. Mr. Sumner.*

—————  
AUGUST 14, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.  
—————

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIX.

RESOLUTIONS of the legislature of New Hampshire in relation to the late acts of violence and bloodshed by the slave power in the Territory of Kansas and at the national capital.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in general court convened, as follows:*

1. *Resolved*, That all subsequent events have demonstrated that the abrogation, in the act organizing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, of the prohibition against slavery, which formed a part of the compact long known and respected as the Missouri compromise, was not, as was alleged by the supporters of the measure, for the purpose of recognizing and enunciating a great political principle, but, as was charged by its opponents at the time, had for its object to strip that great territory of its defences, and to open it to invasion and conquest by that relentless power, which, in its onward movement, no concession can appease and no acquisition can satisfy; and which, for the advancement of its unholy purposes, has long wielded, and virtually claims the right to wield, the whole power of the general government.

2. *Resolved*, That the successful incursions of the armed and organized bands of lawless marauders from a neighboring State into the Territory of Kansas—assailing and overpowering its peaceful inhabitants, preventing their lawful exercise of their political rights, seizing upon and appropriating all the powers vested in them for the formation of a government, and fortifying and perpetuating this usurpation by the most oppressive and atrocious laws—have proved that the doctrine of popular sovereignty, however true in the abstract, and in its application to more mature or to independent communities, is not fitted to the condition of an infant Territory, under constitutional guardianship, and most especially where the powers vested in the guardian shall be used in violation of the great trust which it holds.

3. *Resolved*, That there never has been established in Kansas any



government in accordance with the provisions of its territorial or organic law, and that the conduct of the national executive, in sanctioning and sustaining a pretended government, forcibly imposed upon its inhabitants by slavery fanatics and propagandists from the State of Missouri, is unjust and inhuman, and ought to be rebuked by the friends of freedom throughout the Union, in the most emphatic manner in which they can express their condemnation of wrong.

4. *Resolved*, That the adoption of a constitution, the organization of a government, and the application for admission into the Union as a State, by the people of Kansas, are measures forced upon them by the necessities of their condition, are justified by precedent, and should be acceded to by Congress as the best and speediest, if not the only, means of restoring peace and order to the Territory, and of calming the agitation of the country.

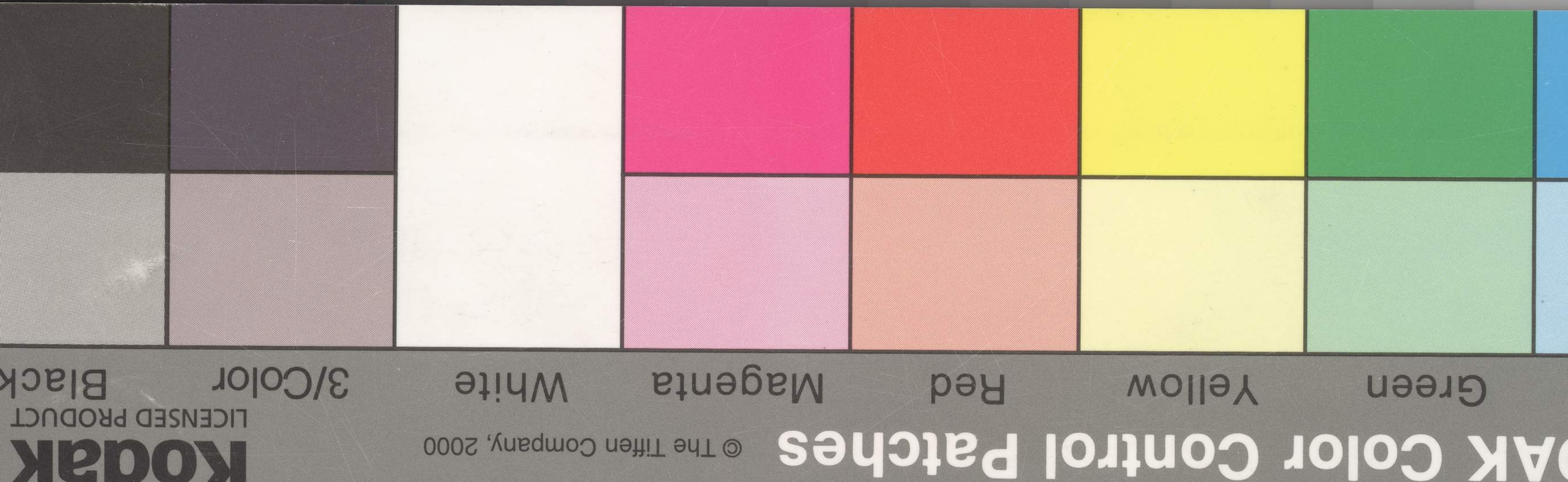
5. *Resolved*, That responsibility for the depredations, burnings, imprisonments, and murders which have been committed against the property and persons of the people of Kansas, tidings of which have come to us upon every western breeze, rests, we are constrained to say, as well upon the President of the United States, charged with the execution of the laws and the preservation of the peace of the country, as upon the inflamed and misguided men who have been the actors in the perpetration of these crimes, and upon those who have stimulated and instigated their commission.

6. *Resolved*, That the recent unmanly and murderous assaults which have disgraced the national capital are but the single outbursts of that fierce spirit of determined domination which has revealed itself so fully on a larger field, and which manifests itself at every point of contact between freedom and slavery, and which, if it shall not be promptly met and subdued, will render any free expression of opinion, any independence of personal action by prominent men of the free States in relation to the great national issue now pending, imprudent and perilous, unless it shall be understood that it is to be backed up by the bowie knife and the revolver.

7. *Resolved*, That while offences, of whatever enormity, which affect only or mainly individual security, may be referred for punishment to the local laws of the place where they are committed, for those offences which reach beyond the individual, and inflict a wound upon a great principle which concerns the whole people, it becomes a duty to arraign the offender at the great bar of the public opinion of the country, and to pronounce upon him such sentence of condemnation as his crime shall merit.

8. *Resolved*, That the assault upon an editor of a public journal, when in attendance upon Congress in his lawful business, for opinions supposed to have been expressed by him through the columns of that journal upon the public official conduct of a member of the government, was a blow at the freedom of the press, and could only have been intended as an admonition that slavery had grown so great that her champions must be spoken of only in careful language and with bated breath.

9. *Resolved*, That the later, more atrocious, and more brutal attack, by one of the chivalrous representatives of South Carolina, upon



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## RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. 3

a senator from Massachusetts, in the Senate chamber, for words spoken in debate in his place, and as the organ of the State which he in part represents in that body, made with the stealthy approach of the assassin, and with the cowardly accompaniment of an accessory and coadjutor, inflicting blows which by their force and frequency had in them hardly anything short of the significance of murder, is receiving the indignant rebuke which it deserves, from the concentrated voice of the people of the free States, expressed through the press and in popular assemblies and legislative bodies—not merely as a crime against personal sanctity, but as a violation of senatorial privilege, as an insult to the dignity and rights of a sovereign State, and as an outrage upon the great constitutional right of freedom of debate—a right in vindication and preservation of which every State and every citizen has a deep interest—and that it is fitting that New Hampshire, through her legislature, should add her voice, as she now does, to that of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, in swelling this volume of denunciation, and in demanding the punishment of the offender, by his expulsion from that body which he has disgraced.

10. *Resolved*, That the people of the free States, strong in the irresistible force of a majority of numbers, have the power, if they will exercise it, through the lawful and peaceful agency of the ballot-box, to compel respect for the rights of their representatives wherever they may be in the discharge of their official duties; the power to right the wrongs of Kansas, and to restore peace and security to that unhappy Territory; the power to prevent the extension of slavery over any territory now free, and to re-establish freedom, as it should have ever been, as the controlling power in the government, and that this State now pledges herself to co-operation with any and all of her sister States in all constitutional measures for the accomplishment of these great ends.

11. *Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the governors of the several States and Territories of the Union, to be laid before the legislative authorities thereof, and to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

EDWARD H. ROLLINS,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
THOMAS J. MELVIN,  
*President of the Senate.*

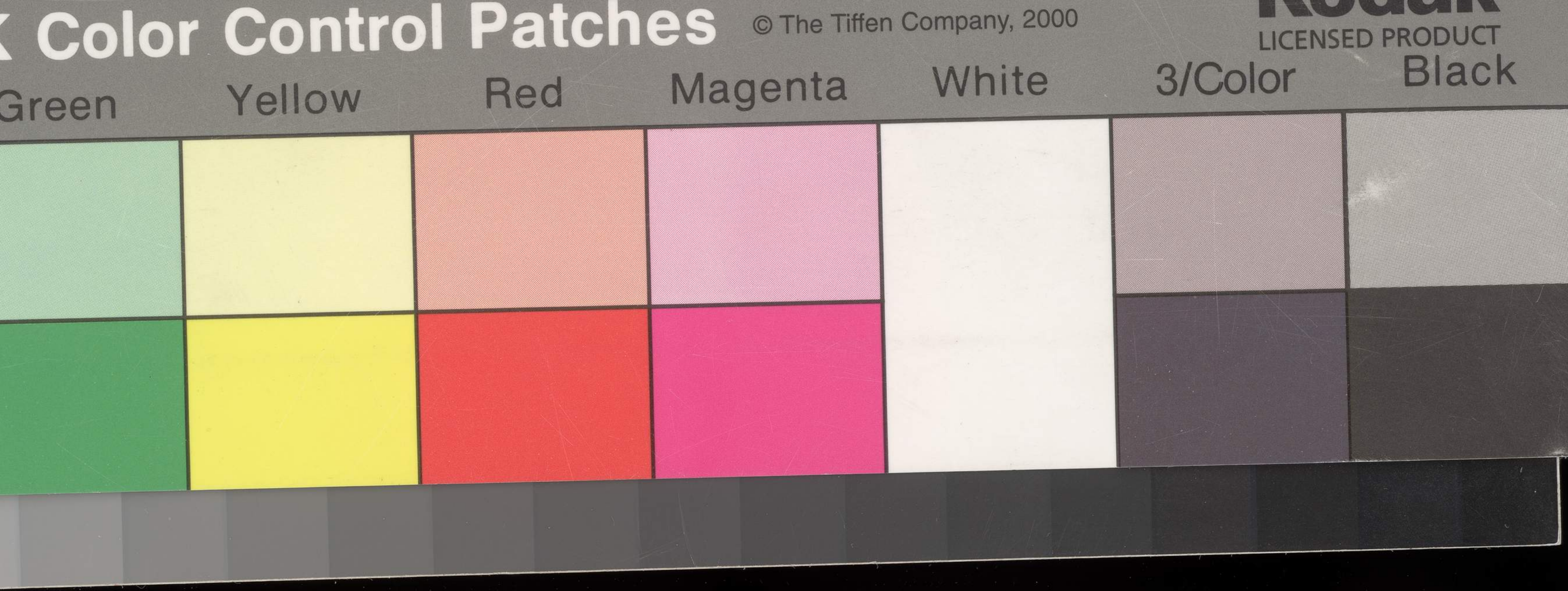
Approved July 12, 1856.

RALPH METCALF, *Governor.*

—  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
*Secretary of State's office, Concord, N. H.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolutions passed by the legislature of this State, copied from the original record now on file at this office.

LEMUEL N. PATTEE,  
*Secretary of State.*



34TH CONGRESS, }  
1st Session. }

SENATE.

{ Mis. Doc.  
{ No. 17.

## RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

### LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

RELATIVE TO

*The recent disturbances in the Territory of Kansas.*

FEBRUARY 13, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE.

RESOLVES in relation to the Territory of Kansas.

*Whereas*, The Territory of Kansas, on occasion of the first two elections therein, has been violently invaded by an armed mob from the neighboring State of Missouri, the persons composing the said mob not only claiming themselves, without the least shadow of right, to vote at the said elections, but by high-handed violence and threats of death, deterring the citizens of the said Territory from the exercise of their right of suffrage, therefore—

*Resolved*, That we respectfully call upon the law-abiding citizens of Missouri, and upon the executive and legislature of that State, speedily to disavow this gross outrage perpetrated by some of their ill-advised citizens, and to take prompt measures to prevent its repetition by them.

*Resolved*, That we call upon the President of the United States to take instant and effectual measures for sustaining, in Kansas, the sovereignty of the people against the violence and incursions of mobs from Missouri.

*Resolved*, That this commonwealth is ready, if necessary, to aid with her whole power the governor of Kansas, and the people of that Territory, or of any other Territory or State, in support of constitutional rights, by whomsoever infringed.

*Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolves to the governor of each of the States and Territories, and another to the President of the United States, and that

our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use all honorable efforts to secure to the people of Kansas their just constitutional rights.

House of Representatives, May 19, 1855, passed.

DANIEL C. EDDY, *Speaker.*

In Senate, May 19, 1855, passed.

HENRY W. BENCHLEY,  
*President.*

Approved May 21, 1855.,

HENRY J. GARDNER.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, *Boston, June 15, 1855.*

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original.

Attest:

E. M. WRIGHT,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

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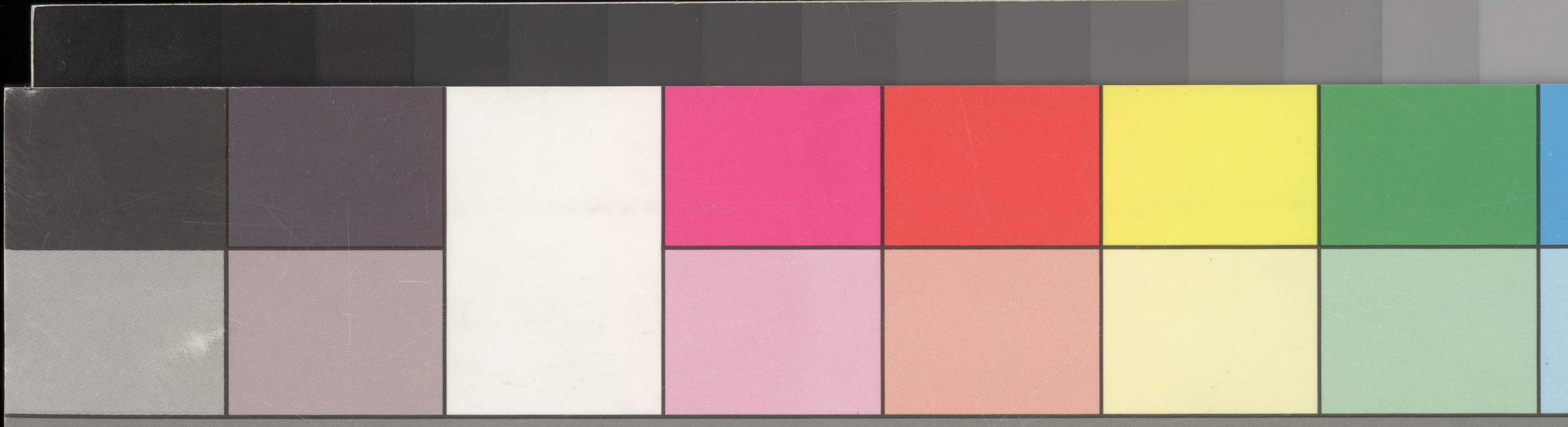
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34TH CONGRESS, }  
1st Session. }

SENATE.

{ MIS. Doc.  
{ No. 58.

## RESOLUTIONS

OF

### THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE,

RELATIVE TO

*The extension of slavery, to slavery in the Territory of Kansas, to the admission of Kansas into the Union as a State, and secret oath-bound political associations.*

MAY 19, 1856.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

#### STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES relating to the extension of slavery, the Territory of Kansas, and secret political associations.

*Resolved,* That, in the judgment of this legislature, the settled convictions of the people of Maine are adverse to the extension of slavery over the Territories of the United States; but that the "resolves relating to slavery," approved March seventeenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, set forth doctrines which are not satisfactory to the people of this State, and are calculated to increase sectional agitation without accomplishing any good result, and to place the State in an attitude of apparent hostility to the Union and the Constitution.

*Resolved,* That the people of Kansas Territory, under the Constitution of the United States and the provisions of the Nebraska-Kansas act, the true intent and meaning of which, by its very terms, are declared to be "to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution," are entitled to protection against interference from any quarter, intended to thwart or prevent the actual settlers in said Territory from the full and complete exercise of the right of suffrage and the enjoyment of all civil and political rights and privileges incident to their position, and necessary to secure the just regulation of their domestic institutions.

*Resolved,* That the Territory of Kansas should be admitted as a State into the Union, whenever it shall have a sufficient population, and the people thereof have adopted a constitution republican in its character, and have conformed to the usages which have heretofore been considered necessary and proper in similar cases.

*Resolved,* That secret oath-bound political associations are hostile to a republican form of government; destroy the rights of the mino-

rities and the independence of the citizens ; corrupt the purity of the ballot-box and become "potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men are enabled to subvert the power of the people, and usurp for themselves the reins of government."

*Resolved*, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, to be presented to that body, and to the governor of each State, with a request that the same be laid before the legislature thereof.

In the House of Representatives April 10, 1856. Read and passed.  
JOSIAH S. LITTLE, *Speaker*.

In Senate, April 10, 1856. Read and passed.  
LOT M. MORRILL, *President*.

Approved, April 10, 1856.

SAMUEL WELLS.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
Augusta, April 23, 1856.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original deposited in this office.

CALEB R. AYER,  
*Secretary of State*.

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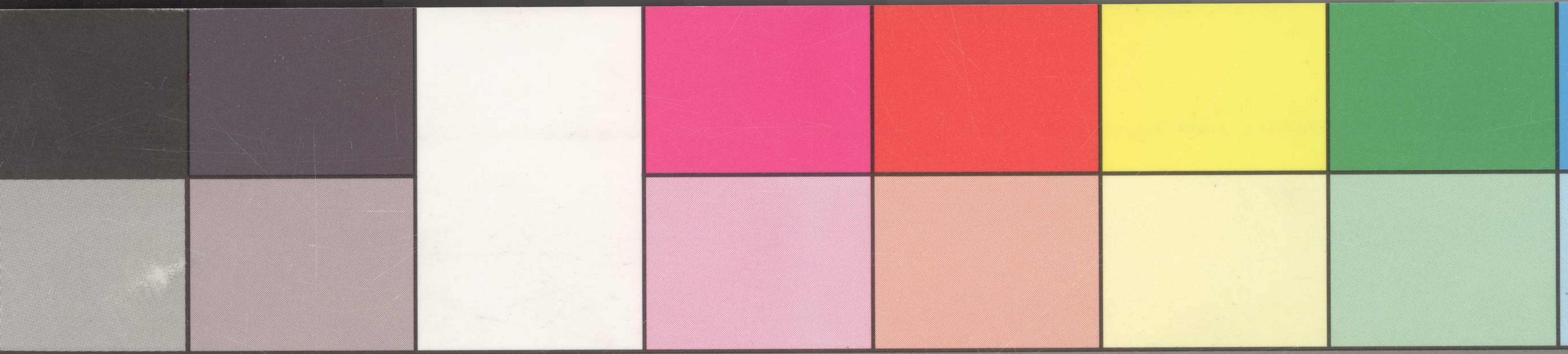
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