

vention. The most important committee was considered to be that on representation. Other committees to which great importance was attached were those on the legislative department; the committee on the judiciary, and the committee on future amendments. The president of the convention in appointing the various committees had strict regard to the different sections of the State.

Early in its session the convention had appointed a select committee to draw up resolutions in reference to the recent compromise measures adopted by the United States Congress. On the 10th of December, 1850, the select committee reported a series of resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

These resolutions declared that the constitution of the United States had accomplished all the objects—civil and political—which its most sanguine framers and friends anticipated. That a proper appreciation of the blessings which that instrument had brought to the country would lead every state in the Union to adopt all measures necessary to give complete effect to all provisions of the constitution, or laws of Congress intended for the protection of any portion of the Union.

They declared that the several acts of Congress, namely: those relating to the admission of California as a free state; to the territorial governments of Utah and New Mexico; to the prohibition of slave trade in the District of Columbia, and to the reclamation of fugitives from labor, did not, to the extent they desired, meet the just demands of the South. But in order to heal the public agitation and perpetuate the Union, the acts of compromise received their acquiescence. They declared that of the series of laws passed by Congress that intended to insure the restoration of fugitives from labor was the only one professing to protect the peculiar rights and institution of the Southern states from the "mischievous hostility of a wicked fanaticism" in the North. The fugitive slave law was but a "tardy and meagre measure of compliance with