

true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way.

Under it Kansas, "when admitted as a State," was to be received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission.

Did Congress mean by this language that the delegates elected to frame a constitution should have authority to legislate on the subject of slavery? Or was it intended by leaving it to the people that the people of Kansas themselves should decide this question by a direct vote?

On the subject of slavery, the constitution of the United States is silent. It is a question which the people of Kansas should decide for themselves.

In expressing this opinion it was far from my intention to detract from the decision of the people of Kansas, either for or against slavery. From this I have always carefully abstained.

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slavery shall be stricken from the constitution by the President of this convention;" and it is expressly declared that "no slavery shall exist in the State of Kansas, except that the right of property in slaves now in the Territory shall in no manner be interfered with."

At this election every citizen will have an opportunity of expressing his opinion by his vote. Whether Kansas shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, and thus settling the question in the most peaceful manner in the history of the world.

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