

The Compromise of 1850

Until 1850 there were an equal number of slave and non-slave states in the Senate.

When the **Gold Rush of 1849** took place in California, this balance was in jeopardy of changing when California applied to become a **Free State**. The question of slavery was again in the forefront of the growth of new territories.

The Compromise of 1850 included four (4) key laws:

1. California entered the Union as a Free State
2. A stricter **Fugitive Slave Law** required that escaped slaves be returned
3. The slave trade, but not slavery, was now prohibited in Washington, D.C.
4. **Popular Sovereignty**, the vote of the people living in the new territory, would determine whether a territory in the Mexican Cession was to be slave or free.

The Compromise of 1850 pleased no one.

Some Northerners took to civil disobedience against the Fugitive Slave Law and the returning of Slaves to the south, others supported the cause of the Underground Railroad.

Southern supporters of States' Rights supported the federal government's plan to return their runaway slaves.

The issue and laws of Popular Sovereignty was unclear. When would the vote of the people be held? Was it to take place when the area was settled or when it had applied to become a state? This led to further conflict and violence.



CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the

**Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,**

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many *HOUNDS* on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

**Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.**

APRIL 24, 1851.