

TERMS.  
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# THE LIBERATOR

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## SLAVERY.

**NEW-ENGLAND ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION.**  
The Convention appointed to consider the expediency of a petition to the Legislature, and to report upon the same, presented the following ADDRESS TO THE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC.

The New-England Anti-Slavery Convention, believing in the permanent importance of the Christian religion, in respect to the glory of its divine author, and the present and eternal interest of man; and being fully assured of the entire incompatibility of the whole system of slavery existing in these states, with the spirit and precepts of that holy religion; and their high duty to their country, their deliberate judgment on this most solemn and important subject.

It is not necessary, at present, to describe in detail what is to be understood by that slavery which is contrary to the law of God, and the law of man. The position has been declared in the tenth article of the treaty of peace with Great Britain, that all traffic in slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of justice and humanity. Nor is it requisite to analyze the anomalies which may occasionally appear in the operations of a general system, or to ascertain the individual exceptions which may sometimes occur in violation of a universal rule. By slavery we intend that system of injustice, oppression and cruelty, which now exists in this republic, sanctioned and prolonged by custom and laws.

The Convention are fully satisfied, from the most indubitable testimony, to adopt the description of one of the most eminent ecclesiastical bodies in the land of God, who give us no instruction; are prohibited from all relative enlargement; cannot preserve their personal purity and honor; realize all kinds of earthly enjoyments; are lawfully separated from all their congenial and beloved companions; are excluded from all social and religious associations; and that Christian profane shall be as slaves, Members of the church, into the most wretched bondage! In view of a scene, presenting so dreadful an outrage on Justice, love and mercy, where do we stand? Where is the Christian who does not fear and tremble? Where is the professor of that religion, which speaks good will to all men, who can doubt respecting the duty of protesting and acting on this momentous topic?

Taking a retrospective view of the moral darkness with which this direful system has overshadowed our beloved country; contemplating it as it has been in truth, a continuous and unbroken and unmitigated evil; it appears to be more certain than this; and that had the proper and legitimate moral and religious influence been urged in all its force against slavery at the termination of the revolutionary war, our country would have been free from this execrable and selfish expediency away; and as the bitter consequence, the truth is that which is morally wrong cannot be politically right, we have found means to remove it.

The Convention are fearfully impressed with the melancholy fact, that the evils, both moral and social, which are inseparably conjoined with slavery, have been accumulating in an augmented ratio, during the last half century, and that no efficient remedy has hitherto been applied to these growing injuries, to the church and the world. On the contrary, it is manifest, that the only means which, under the divine auspices, might have been effective to overthrow slavery in the United States, through the decided principle of non-resistance, have constituted the principal support of that unwholesome despotism.

Christianity, that richest gift of the divine benevolence, is in its legitimate way, the only antidote to the cruel and oppressive nature, or to the propensities of man to transgress the commands of God, which relate to our duties to him and one another. But in reference to slavery, its holy authority has been obeyed and protected by denunciations, but slavery has been either concealed and silenced, or transformed into a direct sanction of that identical crime which they so authoritatively and solemnly condemn.

No injury is so pernicious, as that the abhorrent position of which, are apparently neutralized by decorating it in Christian garb, and housing it with a Christian name. It is not the very climax of anomalies, that a system so repulsive with outrageous violations of moral law, and reciprocal equity, should be openly sanctioned in these States, by the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ? What is that Gospel? Is it not the reign of love, inspiring peace and good will among men? And what is the system we denounce? What is the system which actually exists in these States, but a perpetual series of violations of the law of love? What is but a vile compound of transgressions of the precepts of the divine Decalogue, in their most atrocious developments? And now is it not high time for

professors of our holy religion, who are hastening to the tribunal of Him who will not be mocked, to pause and inquire whether or not the slaveholder, or his abettor, can make a honest, credible and consistent profession of the religion of righteousness and truth, and love?—Who shall abide in his tabernacle?—Who shall dwell in his tent?—Who shall dwell in his holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and loveth righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that doeth not evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned. He that taketh not reward against the innocent. Who shall dwell on high? He that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of evil, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil. Humbleness becometh thine eyes, O Lord, forever.

Is the fruit of slavery, the fruit of the spirit? Is it love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, temperance? Is the language of God's children appropriate to the lips of a slaveholder? Can he say, in reference to this subject, 'When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, then it gave witness to me; because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me; and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I was a father to the poor; and the cause which I knew not I searched out.'

The whole system of slavery is an opposite to the religion, long and short, of God, who is light. We feel solemnly impressed with the assurance, that it is high time that our holy religion should be disengaged of the charge of having the least affinity with a system so odious, injurious and selfish. A religion emanating from such a source, can have no accordance with a law of equity, which frames mischief by force. Consequently, its professors are solemnly charged, on the authority of the King of Kings, to have no fellowship with the works of moral darkness, but rather to revere them.

Whatever forbearance past ignorance in relation to this momentous subject may call for, we are assured that the flood of holy light which has now exposed and developed this system of consummate iniquity, enforces with unutterable obligation the mandate of the Almighty, that now all men should revere.

The Convention have no wish to dictate to any Christian Church, in respect to its order or duty. But for the sake of truth and love; for the sake of our brethren suffering, bleeding and dying under this most unchristian system; for the sake of Zion's peace and glory; for the sake of our beloved country, which is threatened with the holy judgments of that Avenger, into whose ears the cries of the oppressed have entered; and finally, for the sake of the present and eternal interests of two millions of souls, we do most earnestly and anxiously urge, that there be not a high and immediate duty devolving on the whole church of the living God, which is the ground and pillar of the truth?

We are indeed zealous, for we believe that the souls of men are actually affected in good cause. But we wish to have zeal conjoined with knowledge. We wish to give no exaggerated view (if it be possible) of the evil we deplore. We call for the dispassionate and impartial attention of the professed disciples of the Prince of Peace, who came to take us free from the law of sin and death, to this affecting subject. And we ask,

First. Are not the principles and practices of slavery, as it now actually exists in these States, really repulsive in their nature and tendency of that truth and love which are the pillars of the temple of the living God?

Secondly. Has not the King of Zion, whose Father has placed on his holy throne, instituted laws by his own prophets, and those of his inspired and commissioned Apostles, for the maintenance of the purity of his church, that he may exhibit to the world what is that holy and acceptable and perfect will of God?

Thirdly. Are not those laws applicable to the subject before us? Is the fact of holding our brethren in slavery, of buying and selling, and abusing and tormenting those for whom Christ died; of withholding from them the only lamp of life, of spiritual, by keeping them in ignorance; and the other concomitant evils, a course of procedure so compatible with the principles and practices of our holy religion, as not to be the subject of those disciplinary laws which are essential to maintain the true standard of the Christian Church?

The Convention wish not to be misunderstood. Whatever may be the views of individual members on this important subject, they do not as a body, at present, declare

what, in their opinion, is the duty of the Christian Church in respect to the admission or exclusion of persons who may, in various ways and degrees, be maintaining that abominable system. It is believed that the whole nation has been guilty concerning our brethren, in that we have seen the anguish of his heart, when he brought us, and we would not hear. This whole nation is involved in the guilt of rubbing God of the workmanship of his hands. Let us not, however, blunt the arrows of conviction, by the delusive impression that individual guilt is cancelled in the gross, or that we are secure because we have followed a multitude to do evil.

The Convention do not hesitate to declare that, in their view, it is the indispensable duty of the churches of Christ to examine and judge, in what manner the laws of his holy religion bear on the assurance that individuals who are bound to do these inhuman laws of holiness and truth, which neither the blindness of prejudice, nor the press of expediency are ever dissuade. While they deprecate all measures which may tend to that peace of Zion, which is the fruit of truth and love, they are in haste to do that which is essential to the purity of the church, which is the ground and pillar of the truth.

Let the consumers of the liquid poison which, amid storms of vile oppressions, are bearing away their miserable victims to the jaws of death, are to be excited to the same fervor and degree, by maintaining that abominable system. It is believed that the whole nation has been guilty concerning our brethren, in that we have seen the anguish of his heart, when he brought us, and we would not hear. This whole nation is involved in the guilt of rubbing God of the workmanship of his hands. Let us not, however, blunt the arrows of conviction, by the delusive impression that individual guilt is cancelled in the gross, or that we are secure because we have followed a multitude to do evil.

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