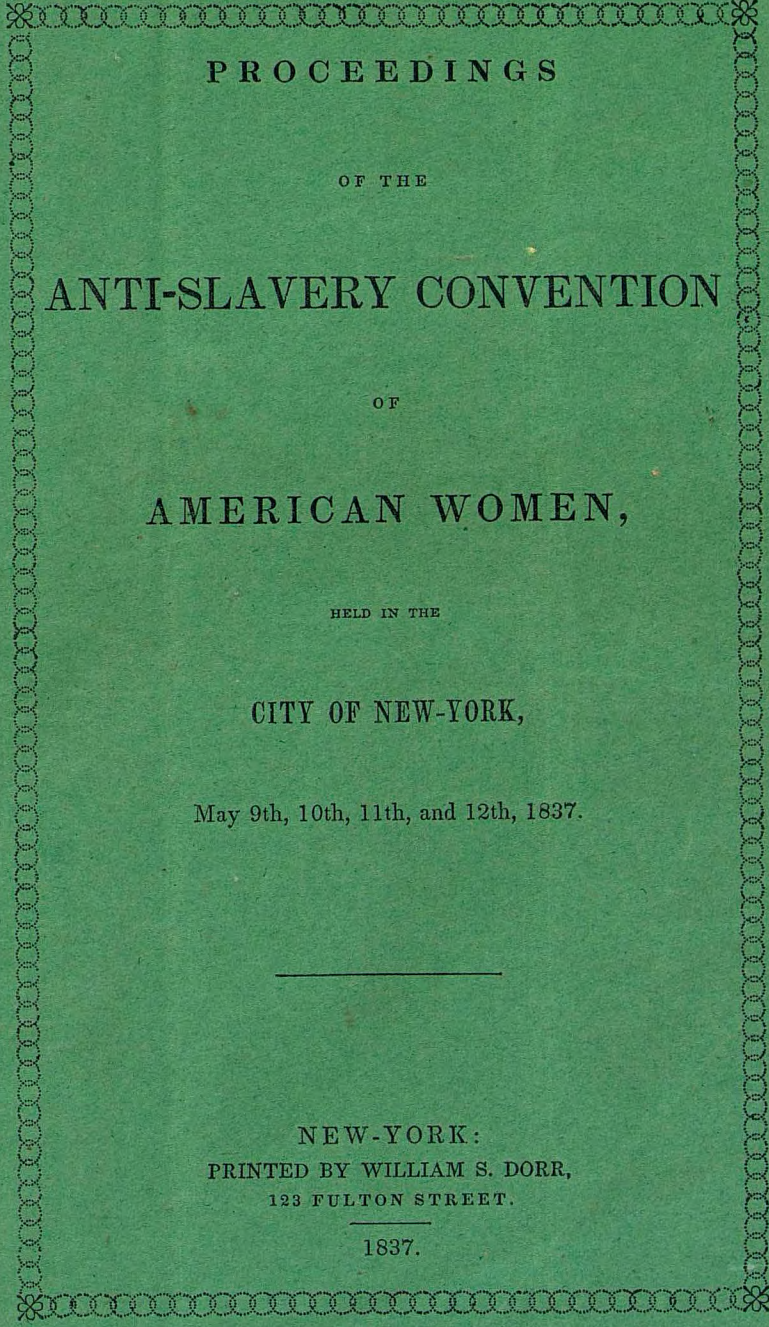


Mary Grew

E
445
N700
W6



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION

OF

AMERICAN WOMEN,

HELD IN THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK,

May 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1837.



NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM S. DORR,
123 FULTON STREET.

1837.

PROFESSIONAL

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

OF COLLEGE TEACHERS

OF THE MIDDLE WEST

OF THE MIDDLE WEST

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGE TEACHERS

OF THE MIDDLE WEST

SM51
A18P

36816

Pam
E
445
N7001
WG

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION

OF

AMERICAN WOMEN,

HELD IN THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK,

May 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1837.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM S. DORR,
123 FULTON STREET.

1837.

6818

PROCEEDINGS

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION

OF

AMERICAN WOMEN

Held at

CITY OF NEW YORK

1840

Printed and Sold by G. W. & J. B. ...

NEW YORK
PUBLISHED BY ...

MINUTES.

PROCEEDINGS of a Convention of Delegates, favorable to the immediate abolition of Slavery in the United States, without expatriation, assembled from various parts of the United States, at the City of New-York, on Tuesday, the 9th day of May, 1837.

At 4 o'clock, P. M., the Convention was called to order, and at the request of a committee appointed at a preliminary meeting, LUCRETIA MOTT, of Philadelphia, took the chair.

On the nomination of the above committee the following officers were appointed:

MARY S. PARKER, of Boston, *President.*

SARAH M. GRIMKÉ, of South Carolina,	}	<i>Vice Presidents.</i>
LUCRETIA MOTT, of Philadelphia, Pa.		
GRACE DOUGLASS, do.		
ANN C. SMITH, of Peterborough, N. Y.		
ABBY ANN COX, of City of New-York.		
LYDIA MARIA CHILD, of Boston, Mass.		

ANGELINA E. GRIMKÉ, of South Carolina,	}	<i>Secretaries.</i>
MARY GREW, of Philadelphia,		
ANNE W. WESTON, of Boston,		
SARAH PUGH, of Philadelphia,		

The presiding officer read the twenty-seventh Psalm, and prayer was then offered.

S. M. Grimké stated that the object of the Convention was to interest women in the subject of anti-slavery, and establish a system of operations throughout every town

and village in the free States, that would exert a powerful influence in the abolition of American slavery.

An invitation was given to all present, who hold the doctrines and are friendly to the objects contemplated, to enroll their names as members of the Convention.

The following women then enrolled their names.

DELEGATES - 71.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.		Jane Corey, <i>New-York City.</i>	
Elizabeth Chandler, <i>Concord.</i>		Mehitable Sunderland, do.	
Miss Louisa Whipple, <i>Dunbarton.</i>		Margaret Prior, do.	
MASSACHUSETTS.		Mrs. R. G. Williams, do.	
Abby Kelly, - <i>Lynn.</i>		Miss Anna Jane Dunbar, do.	
Eliza Ann Dodge, do.		Mrs. Azuba Whittlesey, do.	
Ruth Buffum, do.		Rachel M. Benham, do.	
Beulah W. Brown, do.		Dorcas W. Bell, do.	
Abby C. Newhall, do.		Margaret Dey, do.	
Lydia Buffum, <i>Fall River.</i>		Phebe Thatcher, do.	
Miss Sarah G. Buffum, do.		Mrs. Martha Storrs, <i>Utica.</i>	
Lucy Parker, <i>Reading.</i>		NEW JERSEY:	
Mrs. Caroline W. Abbot, <i>Andover.</i>		Sarah Ann Grimes, <i>Boonton.</i>	
Eliza Pope, <i>Dorchester.</i>		PENNSYLVANIA.	
Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, <i>Roxbury.</i>		Lucretia Mott, <i>Philadelphia.</i>	
Ruby Knight, <i>Peru.</i>		Sydney Ann Lewis, do.	
Ledema Peirce, do.		Mary Grew, do.	
Miss Henrietta Sargent, <i>Boston.</i>		Sarah Pugh, do.	
Eliza F. Merriam, do.		Grace Douglass, do.	
Lydia Maria Child, do.		Sarah M. Douglass, do.	
Mrs. J. C. Fuller, do.		Elizabeth J. Neall, do.	
Anne Warren Weston, do.		Sarah Jackson, do.	
Julia Williams, do.		Janette Jackson, do.	
Mary S. Parker, do.		Anna M. Hopper, do.	
Eliza F. B. Abbot, <i>Salem.</i>		Deborah P. Shaw, do.	
M. Irena Treadwell, do.		Mary Shaw, do.	
RHODE ISLAND.		Maria Pearson, do.	
Lorlane Bignell, <i>Providence.</i>		Anna P. Bunting, do.	
Mary Smith, <i>Smithfield.</i>		Elizabeth Bunting, do.	
Elizabeth Rathburn, do.		Martha Smith, <i>Bucks Co.</i>	
NEW-YORK.		Mary W. Magill, do.	
Eliza Piercy, <i>New-York City.</i>		Sarah Ely, do.	
Mrs. Ann Halsted, do.		Phebe Hadley, <i>Pennsgrove.</i>	
Miss Ann Rankin, do.		Sarah Williams, do.	
Juliana A. Tappan, do.		Mrs. Rachel W. Lambden, <i>Pittsburgh.</i>	
Mrs. Oliver Willcox, do.		Sarah Hambleton, <i>Chester Co.</i>	
Mrs. A. L. Cox, do.		OHIO.	
Miss Anna Blackwell, do.		Clarissa Wright,	
Mary O. B. Penniman, do.		Harriet Seward.	

Corresponding Members—103.

	Martha O'Brien, <i>Machias, Me.</i>	Charlotte Phelps,	N. Y. City.
Mrs.	Harriet S. Sandford, <i>Boylston, Ms.</i>	Sarah B. Brown,	do.
	Phebe H. Smith, <i>Marlboro', do.</i>	Rebecca B. Spring,	do.
	Martha S. Barry, <i>Salem, do.</i>	Mrs. Julia G. Lockwood,	do.
	Ann H. Ray, <i>Falmouth, do.</i>	Mrs. Grace F. Martyn,	do.
	Naomi Bartlett, <i>Providence, R. I.</i>	Henrietta Willcox,	do.
	Mary Jane Benson, <i>Newport, do.</i>	Susan S. Pettit,	do.
Mrs.	Anna C. Morley, <i>Conn.</i>	Eliza D. Mitchell,	do.
	Eliza Perkins, <i>Norwich, do.</i>	Maria C. Hopkins,	do.
	M. B. Campbell, <i>Shelton Isl., N. Y.</i>	Mary Corner,	do.
	Mary S. Howland, <i>Ledyard Society, Cayuga Co. N. Y.</i>	Christina Williams,	do.
	Abby Jane Pierce, <i>Pleasantville, do.</i>	Jemima A. Henry,	do.
	Prudence M. Wing, <i>Ogden, do.</i>	Mary C. Horton,	do.
	Mary W. Lewis, <i>Marlboro', do.</i>	Phebe Bearse,	do.
	Almira Brown, <i>Newburgh, do.</i>	Sarah B. Melvin,	do.
	Julia Robinson, <i>do. do.</i>	Julia Parker,	do.
	Amy Nixon,	Mary Simon,	do.
	Lurretia B. Smith, <i>Fayetteville, do.</i>	Miss Eliza Francis,	do.
	Ann C. Smith, <i>Peterborough, do.</i>	Miss Azuba S. Whittlesey,	do.
	Sarah C. Huntington, <i>N. Y. City.</i>	Mrs. Sarah J. Brower,	do.
	Emily Merritt, <i>do.</i>	Rebecca C. Burger,	do.
Mrs.	Rebecca Downing, <i>do.</i>	Elizabeth M. A. Carryl,	do.
	Maria Voglesang, <i>do.</i>	Eliza Green,	do.
	Eliza D. Richards, <i>do.</i>	Hester Laing,	do.
	Emeline J. White, <i>do.</i>	Mary Locke,	do.
	Hagar Jackson, <i>do.</i>	Lucia Kilgar,	do.
	Maria Stewart, <i>do.</i>	Mary Green,	do.
	Anna M. Thompson, <i>do.</i>	Caroline Gall,	do.
Mrs.	Eliza B. Clark, <i>do.</i>	Ann K. Ray,	do.
	Mira Hill, <i>do.</i>	Eliza S. Ray,	do.
	Mary M. Bondsmen, <i>do.</i>	Elizabeth Jenkins,	do.
Mrs.	Sophronia Johnson, <i>do.</i>	Fizzere Roundtree,	do.
	Mary Ann Freeman, <i>do.</i>	Elizabeth Reynolds,	do.
	E. M. Jayne, <i>Wesle'n Soc. do.</i>	Sarah Davis,	do.
	Elizabeth Russell, <i>do.</i>	Evelina Brown,	do.
Mrs.	Sarah Ingraham, <i>do.</i>	Jane Brown,	do.
	Susan A. Tappan, Jr., <i>do.</i>	Esther Carpenter,	do.
	Mary Murray, <i>do.</i>	Miss Anna R. R. Draper,	do.
	Mary Dimond, <i>do.</i>	Mary A. Howe,	do.
	Maria Forey, <i>do.</i>	Miss Eliza Latelle,	do.
	Abigail H. Gibbons, <i>do.</i>	Jane Dubois,	do.
	Sarah F. Smith, <i>do.</i>	Fanny Thompkins,	do.
Mrs.	Ann Johnson, <i>do.</i>	Matilda D. Jennings,	do.
	Delia Johnson, <i>do.</i>	Sarah C. Jennings,	do.
Mrs.	Elizabeth S. Lane, <i>do.</i>	Mrs. Mary F. Benedict,	do.
	Mary Smith, <i>do.</i>	Miss Sarah A. Bellamy,	do.
	Anna Dunlap, <i>do.</i>	Susan Taylor,	do.
		Ursula M. Penniman,	do.

Charlotte Woolsey,	N. Y. City.	Mary A. Wright,	Phila., Penn.
Mary Pancoast,	do.	Mary Sellers,	Derby, do.
Rachel G. C. Patten,	do.	Sarah M. Grimké,	South Carolina.
Sarah A. Vandren,	do.	Angelina E. Grimké,	do.
Ann E. Williams,	Phila., Penn.		

Interesting letters were read from the following friends of the cause:

MARIA A. STURGES, of Putnam, Ohio.

MARY CLARK, of Concord, N. H.

ELIZA GILE, of Fitchburgh, Mass.

MARIA W. CHAPMAN, of Boston, Mass.

On motion, a Committee of Arrangements of ten members, to prepare and bring forward business for the Convention, was appointed:

Mrs. A. L. COX,
Mrs. ANN C. SMITH, } New-York.

LYDIA MARIA CHILD,
ANNE WARREN WESTON, } Massachusetts.

SARAH DOUGLASS,
Mrs. RACHEL W. LAMBDEN, } Pennsylvania.

ELIZABETH C. CHANDLER,
Mrs. CLARISSA WRIGHT, } Ohio.

SARAH M. GRIMKÉ,
ANGELINA E. GRIMKÉ, } South Carolina.

Adjourned to Wednesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10.

The Convention was called to order at 3 o'clock, P. M.
A portion of the Scriptures was read, and prayer offered.

The Committee of Arrangements made a report recommending the following subjects for the consideration of the Convention:

1. Appeal to the Women of the *nominally* Free States;
2. Address to Free Colored Americans;
3. Letter to the Women of Great Britain;
4. Circular to the Female Anti-Slavery Societies in the United States;

5. Letter to Juvenile Anti-Slavery Societies ;
6. Letter to John Quincy Adams.

Resolved, That committees be appointed to prepare the same, each to consist of three members.

The following committees were then appointed :

1. A. E. Grimké, L. M. Child, and Grace Douglass ;
2. Sarah M. Grimké, Lucretia Mott, and Maria Voglesang ;
3. H. Sargeant, Mrs. A. L. Cox, and Mary Grew ;
4. L. M. Child, A. W. Weston, and Sarah Pugh ;
5. Sarah Pugh, Juliana A. Tappan, and Anna Hopper ;
6. A. E. Grimké, Rebecca B. Spring, and Anna Blackwell.

Lydia M. Child offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That a thorough investigation of the anti-slavery cause, in all its various aspects and tendencies, has confirmed us in the belief that it is the cause of God, who created mankind free, and of Christ, who died to redeem them from every yoke. Consequently it is the duty of every human being to labor to preserve, and to restore to all who are deprived of it, God's gift of freedom ; thus showing love and gratitude to the Great Redeemer by treading in his steps.

Mary L. Cox, of Germantown, Pa., spoke in favor of the resolution, and on the necessity of treading in the Redeemer's steps. She expressed her thankfulness that all sectarian feeling had been swept away by the strong current of abolition philanthropy.

The resolution was adopted.

Lydia M. Child offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That while we rejoice in any mitigation of cruelty in the treatment of our brethren and sisters held as slaves, we will bear in mind that the great question is not one of treatment, but of *principle* ; hence, that no compromise can be made on the score of kind usage, while man is held as the property of man.

S. M. Grimké spoke in favor of the resolution, and remarked that the essential sin of slavery consisted in reducing man to a brute.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion of A. E. Grimké the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That we regard the combination of interest which exists between the North and the South, in their political, commercial, and domestic relations, as

the true, but hidden cause of the unprincipled and violent efforts which have been made, (at the North, but made in vain,) to smother free discussion, impugn the motives, and traduce the characters of abolitionists.

Resolved, That we regard the legalized practice of surrendering fugitive slaves to their southern task-masters, as utterly at variance with the principles of liberty professed by us "the freest nation in the world;" and a daring infringement of the divine commands, "Thou shalt not deliver unto his master, the servant that is escaped from his master unto thee." — "Hide the outcast, bewray not him that wandereth. Let my outcast dwell with thee, be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler."

Resolved, That the right of petition is natural and inalienable, derived immediately from God, and guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and that we regard every effort in Congress to abridge this sacred right, whether it be exercised by man or woman, the bond or the free, as a high-handed usurpation of power, and an attempt to strike a death-blow at the freedom of the people. And therefore that it is the duty of every woman in the United States, whether northerner or southerner, annually to petition Congress with the faith of an Esther, and the untiring perseverance of the importunate widow, for the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and the Territory of Florida, and the extermination of the inter-state slave-trade.

On motion of S. M. Grimké the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That we regard those northern men and women, who marry southern slaveholders, either at the South or the North, as identifying themselves with a system which desecrates the marriage relation among a large portion of the white inhabitants of the southern states, and utterly destroys it among the victims of their oppression.

The movers of the previous resolutions, sustained them by some remarks.

On motion of L. M. Child the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That we recommend to the women of those states where laws exist recognizing the legal right of the master to retain his slave within their jurisdiction, for a term of time, earnestly to petition their respective legislatures for the repeal of such laws; and that the right of trial by jury may be granted to all persons claimed as slaves.

S. M. Grimké offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That whereas God has commanded us to "prove all things and hold fast that which is good,"—therefore, to yield the right, or exercise of free discussion to the demands of avarice, ambition, or worldly policy, would involve us in disobedience to the laws of Jehovah, and that as moral and responsible beings, the women of America are solemnly called upon by the spirit of the age and the signs of the times, fully to discuss the subject of slavery, that they may

be prepared to meet the approaching exigency, and be qualified to act as women, and as Christians on this all-important subject.

The resolution was supported by the mover, A. E. Grimké, and Lucretia Mott.

A. E. Grimké offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That as certain rights and duties are common to all moral beings, the time has come for woman to move in that sphere which Providence has assigned her, and no longer remain satisfied in the circumscribed limits with which corrupt custom and a perverted application of Scripture have encircled her; therefore that it is the duty of woman, and the province of woman, to plead the cause of the oppressed in our land, and to do all that she can by her voice, and her pen, and her purse, and the influence of her example, to overthrow the horrible system of American slavery.

The resolution was sustained by the mover, and by Lucretia Mott. Amendments were offered by Mary Grew, and Mrs. A. L. Cox, which called forth an animated and interesting debate respecting the rights and duties of women. The resolution was finally adopted, without amendments, though *not unanimously*.*

Adjourned to Thursday morning, 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 11.

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Reading of the Scriptures and prayer by S. M. Grimké.

The roll of the Convention was then called.

On motion of Sarah M. Grimké it was

Resolved, That MARTHA STORRS, of Utica, N. Y., be added to the list of Vice Presidents.

L. M. Child moved to amend the resolution on petitions for freedom in the free states, by adding the words, "and that the right of trial by jury may be granted to all persons claimed as slaves." Adopted.

* Among those who voted against the adoption of this resolution, the following wished to have their names recorded in the minutes, as disapproving of some parts of it:—Mrs. Brower, Mrs. A. L. Cox, Mrs. Sophronia Johnson, Mrs. R. W. Lambden, Mrs. A. Lane, Mrs. R. G. Williams, Mrs. G. F. Martyn, Mrs. O. Willcox, Miss A. Rankin, Miss A. J. Dunbar, Miss H. Willcox, and Ruby Knight.

Resolutions were offered by L. M. Child, which, after debate, were adopted, with slight alterations,† as follows :

Resolved, That this Convention, with the deepest solicitude, offer to the Boards of the American Bible Society, the American and Foreign Bible Society, and kindred associations, the following suggestion and inquiry: It is our fear, respected fathers and brethren, that the Lord's treasury in this land has been hitherto polluted with the price of blood; and therefore the expected blessing has not rested upon our efforts to christianize the world. When Judas was stricken with remorse, the *Jewish* chief priests refused to receive his silver, because it was "the price of blood." And now we solemnly ask you, as stewards of the mysteries of God, can you continue to receive the contributions of those who sustain by their example, a system full of cruelty and crime—a system that denies to two millions of benighted souls the written Word of the living God.

Resolved, That our love to the perishing heathen—our gratitude to Christ for his last command—and our fervent desire for its speedy fulfillment, incite us to compare with the Word and Spirit of the sacred oracles, the present measures of the American church for evangelizing the world; and to declare that with the inconsistency of some of those measures we are grieved and distressed, and against them are constrained faithfully to remonstrate.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to all the followers of Christ in this land, to ascertain with fervent prayer, what God will have them to do in this matter; and through what channels their benevolence may flow to the heathen world, without mingling with the streams that arise from traffic "in slaves, and the souls of men."

A. E. Grimké from the committee to prepare an "Appeal to the Women of the *nominally* Free States," presented the same, which was read in part.

After a debate, it was, on motion of Lucretia Mott,

Resolved, That the report be recommitted, and that the committee be enlarged.

The following members were added to the committee: Mary Grew, Lucretia Mott, Margaret Dey, Abby Kelly, Anne W. Weston, and Anna M. Hopper.

On motion of Mary Grew,

Resolved, That Anne W. Weston be added to the committee on the Letter to the Women of Great Britain.

On motion of Abby Kelly,

Resolved, That S. G. Buffum be added to the same committee in place of H. Sargent, of Boston, who is obliged to return home.

Adjourned to afternoon, 3 o'clock.

† Mrs. Sophronia Johnson, Mrs. Rachel W. Lambden, and Ruby Knight, wished their names recorded as not entirely approving of these resolutions.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 11.

Convention was called to order at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Reading of the Scriptures by the President, and prayer by A. E. Grimké.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion,

Resolved, That Mary Grew and Anne W. Weston be excused from serving on the committee on the "Appeal to the Women of the *nominally* Free States," and that S. A. Lewis, of Philadelphia, and Mary Smith, of Smithfield, R. I., be appointed to fill the vacancies.

S. M. Grimké, from the committee to prepare an "Address to Free Colored Americans" presented the same.

On motion of Mary Grew,

Resolved, That the Address be recommitted.

On motion of R. B. Spring,

Resolved, That the following members be added to the committee, *viz.* Sidney Ann Lewis, Julia Williams, Mary Magill, Mary Smith, Rebecca Downing, and Anna M. Thompson.

On motion of Angelina E. Grimké,

Resolved, That we must regard slavery in this country as a *national sin*, so long as it exists in the District of Columbia and the territory of Florida; as long as the northern states surrender the fugitive to his master, refuse to repeal those laws which recognize and secure the usurpation of the master over his slave, and continue pledged to put down servile insurrection at the South; as long as the inter-state slave trade is carried on, and there are governors in our free states, who pronounce the free discussion of the subject of slavery to be "a misdemeanor at common law," and that we regard slavery to be a national sin, because Congress has the power to abolish it, just so far as it has exercised that power to create and sustain it in our land.

L. M. Child in consideration of the wishes of some members, who were opposed to the adoption of the resolution on the province of women, moved that the same be reconsidered. The motion was seconded by A. W. Weston, but after discussion was lost.

On motion of Mrs. A. L. Cox, seconded by Rebecca B. Spring,

Resolved, That there is no class of women to whom the anti-slavery cause makes so direct and powerful an appeal as to *mothers*; and that they are solemnly urged by all the blessings of their own and their children's freedom, and by all the contrasted bitterness of the slave-mother's condition, to lift up their

hearts to God on behalf of the captive, as often as they pour them out over their own children in a joy with which "no stranger may intermeddle;" and that they are equally bound to guard with jealous care the minds of their children from the ruining influences of the spirit of pro-slavery and prejudice, let those influences come in what name, or through what connexions they may.

Sarah M. Grimké offered the following resolution, accompanied with remarks :

Resolved, That, Whereas we believe that the pure and Christian principles of PEACE commend themselves with peculiar power to the hearts of abolitionists; and

Whereas we feel that by publicly professing these principles, and engaging actively in their dissemination, we may give our friends at the South the best possible security that in all our measures for the relief of the oppressed slave, and for his restoration to freedom, we shall be governed by the forbearance and forgiving spirit of our Saviour;

Therefore, We recommend to mothers to educate their children in the principles of peace, and special abhorrence of that warfare, which gives aid to the oppressor against the oppressed.

Adopted.

L. M. Child, from the committee to prepare a Circular to the Female Anti-Slavery Societies in the United States, presented the same, which was read and recommitted for some additions and slight alterations.

Some remarks were made by the President on the importance of petitions to Congress and to State legislatures, and plans for circulating them for signatures. At the conclusion the free states were called in rotation, and from most of them pledges were given by their daughters rising to the call, and promising their exertions in this cause.

A letter from the Free Produce Society of Oxford, Penn. was read, and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

On motion of A. E. Grimké,

Resolved, That as most of the merchants and editors of our large cities have done every thing they could, to close the door of access at the South against abolition doctrines, by villifying the characters and misrepresenting the motives of abolitionists, who have stood forth as the advocates of the oppressed American, whether bond or free; so we as their wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters, are resolved to do all that we can to open that door, by vindicating their characters from the aspersions which have been cast upon them, and to stand side by side with them in the great struggle between right and wrong, freedom and despotism, justice and oppression, Christian equality and American prejudice.

On motion of Martha Storrs,

Resolved, That as the northern churches are united to the southern slaveholding churches by the bonds of church government, or Christian fellowship, they are solemnly called upon to rebuke their brethren and not suffer sin upon them : And that it is the duty of women to send up memorials to the different ecclesiastical bodies to which they belong, praying them to declare slavery a sin, which ought to be immediately repented of lest the curse of Almighty God fall upon their churches for refusing, as Meroz did, to come up "to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

A. W. Weston offered the following resolution, viz. :

Resolved, That we feel bound solemnly to protest against the principles of the American Colonization Society, as anti-republican and anti-christian, that we believe them to have had a most sorrowful influence in riveting the chains of the slave by recognizing him as the property of his master, and in strengthening the unreasonable and unholy prejudice against our oppressed brethren and sisters, by declaring them "almost too debased to be reached by the heavenly light," that to the slave, the Society offers exile or bondage ; to the freeman, persecution or banishment, and that we view it as an expatriation Society.

This resolution elicited much expression of opinion, and some touching appeals from the colored members of the Convention. The resolution was adopted.

On motion of A. E. Grimké,

Resolved, That this Convention do firmly believe that the existence of an unnatural prejudice against our colored population, is one of the chief pillars of American slavery—therefore, that the more we mingle with our oppressed brethren and sisters, the more deeply are we convinced of the sinfulness of that anti-christian prejudice which is crushing them to the earth in our nominally free states—sealing up the fountains of knowledge from their panting spirits, and driving them into infidelity, and that we deem it a solemn duty for every woman to pray to be delivered from such an unholy feeling, and to act out the principles of Christian equality by associating with them as though the color of the skin was of no more consequence than that of the hair, or the eyes.

On motion of Lucretia Mott,

Resolved, That the support of the iniquitous system of slavery at the South is dependent on the co-operation of the North, by commerce and manufactures, as well as by the consumption of its products—therefore that, despising the gain of oppression we recommend to our friends, by a candid and prayerful examination of the subject, to ascertain if it be not a duty to cleanse our hands from this unrighteous participation, by no longer indulging in the luxuries which come through this polluted channel ; and in the supply of the necessary articles of food and clothing, &c., that we "provide things honest in the sight of all men," by giving the preference to goods which come through requited labor.

On motion of A. E. Grimké,

Resolved, That we hail with high approbation the increasing number of those institutions of learning which, like Onedia Institute, Western Reserve College, and other seminaries, have practically reprobated the anti-republican prejudice that has so long excluded oppressed Americans from the advantages of a collegiate education in the United States; and we earnestly hope the time may soon arrive when all our academical institutions will inscribe over their portals, "Let him that is athirst for knowledge come, and whosoever will, of every clime and every creed, let him come and drink freely of the fountain of science and literature."

Resolved, That it is the duty of abolitionists to do all they can to establish and sustain day, evening, and Sabbath schools irrespective of color; and likewise to visit the schools in which colored pupils are taught, to encourage them in the acquisition of knowledge, and strengthen the teachers in their labor of love.

Resolved, That we view with heartfelt commendation the noble stand which Oberlin Collegiate Institute has taken with regard to prejudice; and it is with peculiar satisfaction we have learned that our oppressed sisters may find at least one seminary in our republican despotism, where they may enjoy the benefits of a liberal education.

On motion of Mrs. A. L. Cox,

Resolved, That Mrs. Cox, Mrs. R. G. Williams, and Susan A. Tappan, be a committee to ascertain the probable expense of printing the proceedings, and a mode of raising funds to defray the expenses of the Convention.

On motion of S. M. Grimké,

Resolved, That we regard anti-slavery prints as powerful auxiliaries in the cause of emancipation, and recommend that these "pictorial representations" be multiplied an hundred fold; so that the speechless agony of the fettered slave may unceasingly appeal to the heart of the patriot, the philanthropist, and the christian.

Abby Kelly offered the following resolution, viz.:

Resolved, That as large funds are required in order to the rapid advancement of this cause, we consider it an imperious duty to make retrenchments from our own personal expenses, whenever in our power, that we may be the better able to contribute to such funds.

The mover sustained the resolution by remarks on the duty of retrenchment, especially in dress, to enable women to contribute more liberally to the anti-slavery cause.

The resolution was adopted.

Adjourned to Friday morning, 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 12.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M., pursuant to adjournment.

The meeting was opened with reading a portion of Scripture by the President, and prayer by Mary Grew.

Before calling the roll, inquiry was made whether the names of the members should be published with the appellation of Mrs. and Miss. After discussion it was,

On motion,

Resolved, That the members be designated according to their individual wishes.*

The roll was called.

L. M. Child made some remarks on the subject of petitions. Members from Boston, New-York, Philadelphia, Rochester, and Providence, pledged, on behalf of their respective societies, to send a copy of a petition to Congress for the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade in the District of Columbia, to each town in their several states in the course of the present season.

The committee appointed to ascertain the probable expenses of printing the publications, prepared by the Convention, presented a report, which was adopted.

The resolution to raise the requisite funds, for the above object, was called up, and the following pledges were made :

SOCIETIES.	INDIVIDUALS.	
Portland, Maine,	Caroline Abbott, Andover, Mass.,	\$10 00
Concord, N. H.,	Emeline Merritt, S. Weymouth, "	5 00
Boston, - Mass.,	Abba C. Newhall, Bolton, "	5 00
Fall River, "	Amelia A. Bowen, Woodstock, Ct.,	5 00
Lynn, "	Abba J. Pierce, E. & M. Carpen-	
Salem, "	ter, Westchester Co., N. Y.,	5 00
Uxbridge, "	Almira Barnes, for Troy, "	5 00
Roxbury, "	" " New Haven, Ct.	5 00
Reading, " (South Parish),	Elizabeth Reynolds, New Jersey,	5 00
New Bedford, "	Mary H. Johnson, "	5 00
Fitchburg, "	G. & S. Douglass, Philadelphia,	7 50
Pawtucket, Rhode Island,	S. M. & A. E. Grimké, and Hes-	
Upper Smithfield, "	ter Laing, for South Carolina,	15 00
New-York City,	Anna M. Thompson,	5 00
Third Free Church, N. Y. City,	Mary A. Halsted,	5 00
Wesleyan, (North,) "	Nancy Kinsdale,	5 00
Union, "	Elizabeth Brown,	5 00
Ledyard, N. Y.,	Ann & Delia Johnson, for Frank-	
Col'd Ladies' Lit. Soc. N. Y. City,	fort Church,	5 00
Rising daughters of Abyssinia, "		
Ogden, New-York,		
Philadelphia, Penn.,	From societies,	\$97 50
Buckingham, "		260 00
Pittsburgh, "		
Germantown, "		\$357 50
		\$260 00

* A large proportion of the members who declined the appellation of Mrs. or Miss, were *not* members of the Society of Friends.

On motion of L. M. Child,

Resolved, That the minutes of this Convention, with the other documents, be published.

On motion,

Resolved, That Mrs. R. G. Williams, A. E. Grimké, and J. A. Tappan, be appointed a Committee on Publications.

On motion,

Resolved, That Miss Ann Rankin, be appointed Treasurer to receive the money pledged by the Convention.*

On motion of L. M. Child,

Resolved, That a Convention of Anti-Slavery Women be held annually (with the permission of Providence) in Boston, New-York, Philadelphia, or elsewhere, until slavery is abolished.

On motion of Mary Grew,

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns it be adjourned to meet in PHILADELPHIA, on the third week in May, 1838.

A. E. Grimké, from the committee on preparing a letter to J. Q. Adams, presented a copy of the same, which was read and adopted.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee from the different free states, whose women have petitioned Congress for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and Florida, be instructed to convey to the Hon. John Quincy Adams, the grateful sense which this Convention entertains of his recent services, in defending the right of petition for women, and for slaves,—qualified as it must be with the regret, that by expressing himself “adverse to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia,” he did not sustain the cause of freedom and of God.

On motion of L. M. Child,

Resolved, That the committee on preparing a letter to Mr. Adams be instructed to enclose to him the above resolution.

On motion of Anne W. Weston,

Resolved, That three Central Committees be appointed, with whom persons, favorable to the cause, in all parts of the country, can correspond.

On motion,

Resolved, That Mary Grew, Sarah M. Douglass, and Sarah Pugh, of Philadelphia; Rebecca B. Spring, Juliana A. Tappan, and Anna Blackwell, of the city of New-York; and Henrietta Sargeant, Maria W. Chapman, and Catharine Sullivan, of Boston, be the committees for the above purpose.†

* Miss Rankin's address is No. 30 Beach Street, New-York City.

† Letters may be addressed to Mary Grew, care of Rev. Henry Grew, Sarah M. Douglass, care of Robert Douglass, Rebecca B. Spring, care of Marcus M. Spring, Juliana A. Tappan, care of Lewis Tappan, Anna Blackwell, care of Samuel Blackwell, and Maria W. Chapman, care of Henry G. Chapman, and to the other members of the committee.

Sarah Pugh, from the committee on preparing a letter to Juvenile Societies, presented a copy of the same, which was referred to the Committee on Publications.

On motion,

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of the Convention be sent to each delegate, and to all Anti-Slavery Societies of Women not represented in the Convention.

On motion of L. M. Child,

Resolved, That we believe it to be the duty of abolitionists to encourage our oppressed brethren and sisters in their different trades and callings, by employing them whenever opportunities offer for so doing.

Resolved, That we, as abolitionists, use all our influence in having our colored friends seated promiscuously in all our congregations; and that as long as our churches are disgraced with side-seats and corners set apart for them, we will, as much as possible, take our seats with them.

Resolved, That the contribution of means for the purchase of men from their claimants, is an acknowledgment of a right of property in man, which is inconsistent with our principles, and not sanctioned by true humanity, unless it be accompanied by an absolute denial of the right of property, and a declaration that we contribute in the same spirit as we would do to redeem a fellow-creature from Algerine captivity.

Resolved, That we hail with heartfelt gratitude to God, and high approbation of man, the noble example which the colored slaveholders in Martinique have set the slaveholders of the United States, in sending up a petition to the French Chamber of Deputies for the immediate abolition of slavery in that island, it being the first instance which slaveholders have themselves petitioned for the breaking of the yoke of the enslaved; and we earnestly recommend it to the prayerful consideration and speedy imitation of our southern brethren and sisters.

Resolved, That we recommend to the wives and daughters of clergymen, throughout the land, to strengthen their husbands and fathers to declare the whole counsel of God on the subject of slavery, fearing no danger, or prejudice, or privation, being willing "to suffer persecution with them for Christ's sake."

Resolved, That we have beheld with grief and amazement the death-like apathy of some northern churches on the subject of American slavery and the unchristian opposition of others to the efforts of the Anti-Slavery Society; and that as long as northern pulpits are closed against the advocates of the oppressed, whilst they are freely open to their oppressors, the northern churches have their own garments stained with the blood of slavery, and are awfully guilty in the sight of God.

Resolved, That we recommend to all whose consciences approve of appointed seasons for prayer, a punctual attendance upon the monthly concert of prayer for the slaves; and that around the family altar, and in their secret supplications before God, they earnestly commend to his mercy the suffering slave and the guilty master.

Resolved, That laying aside sectarian views, and private opinions, respecting certain parts of the preceding resolutions, we stand pledged to each other and the world, to *unite* our efforts for the accomplishment of the holy object of our association, that herein seeking to be directed by divine wisdom, we may be qualified to wield the sword of the spirit in this warfare; praying that it may never return to its sheath, until liberty is proclaimed to the captive, and the opening of the prison doors to those that are bound.

Several members of the Convention expressed their feelings in reference to the dignity and impartiality with which the President had performed the duties of the chair. A suitable reply was made, calculated to deepen the impression as to the responsibilities that had been assumed by the Convention.

After prayer by the President, the Convention adjourned.

MARY S. PARKER, *President*.

LYDIA MARIA CHILD,
ANN C. SMITH,
ABBY ANN COX,
LUCRETIA MOTT,
GRACE DOUGLASS,
MARTHA STORRS,
SARAH M. GRIMKÉ,

*Vice
Presidents.*

ANGELINA E. GRIMKÉ,
MARY GREW,
SARAH PUGH,
ANNE W. WESTON,

Secretaries.

02

APPENDIX.

BELOVED FRIENDS,

Boston, May 6th, 1837.

Would I were present with you, that I might express more fully than I can in writing, the joyful and exalted hopes with which your meeting inspires me. Hitherto, even in civilized nations, truth or moral power, has been compelled to yield to physical barbaric energy. Even christendom has, as yet, but dimly recognized the rights and duties of the soul; because christendom has been obstinate to follow traditions, refusing to be taught immediately of Christ. But it shall be so no longer, now that the mothers of Israel are arising.

When we cast a glance over the earth, and perceive science and art moving over its face, and bringing its uttermost ends into proximity, so modifying time and space that soul, however feeble the physical organization to which it is bound, may pass from region to region with almost electrical rapidity, we find the same operations which bring down the mountain and exalt the valley, producing an analogous effect in the moral world.

"The signs are full." The present state of the world demands of woman the awakening and vigorous exercise of powers which womanhood has allowed to slumber for ages. She has been oppressed, kept in ignorance, degraded: — not in vain if she has thereby learned active sympathy for the enslaved — not in vain, if her sufferings contribute to her salvation.

"Till there arise a saviour from among *themselves*, they are not fit for deliverance," said Spurzheim; and he was a great and wise man; but God sees not as man sees, nor is this the principle on which he proceeds with the sons or the daughters of men. He has sent us a deliverer and a redeemer. His Son is most emphatically the saviour of woman. To *us* belong the prophetic strains of the sublime Magnificent, "And our spirits shall rejoice in God our saviour."

It is a glorious salvation to be moved to take up a cross worthier than women in ordinary times have chosen, or been permitted, to bear; and we are benefited as well as honored and exalted, by our labors for the slave. Are we **FREE!** it is because we have burst our manacles in the effort to undo those that weigh so heavily on him. Let us repay him for the benefit he has unconsciously conferred. We doubly owe to the slave this convention, the first general one of women ever held in our country, if not in the world. We owe it to the noble company among men, who, remembering that woman is ordained of God a help-meet, have claimed of us the fulfillment of our duty in this enterprize. We owe it to other

women, if we have found a truth which they have not perceived, and the reception or rejection of which, must needs be of high importance to them. We owe it to coming generations. We are unfit to give them being, unless we have prepared our souls for a free and holy ministry to theirs. The careless, the frivolous, the helpless, the worldly, the timid, the irresolute, the doubting, who are forbidden to exercise the strenuous virtues, and who obey the despotic mandate,

"These are not they, my friends, who generate
The calm, the blissful, the endearing mighty."

We owe it to the world, which has so deeply concerned itself with our proceedings on the abolition question, to declare what are the principles and measures which we adopt. We owe it to ourselves, to do it with one accord in solemn assembly, by the utterance of deep thoughts and powerful words; and to our MAKER, to do it with earnest prayer, "and with love, and with power, and with a sound mind."

Every obligation of humanity, of religion, of patriotism, of maternity, of every relation of womanhood is upon us, to leave no labor unperformed which may hasten the emancipation of our country from its bondage. There is no need that we should labor to prove our fitness or ability for the work; do we not all

"Feel that within us, kindling through the dust,
Which, from all time hath made high deeds its voice,
And token to the nations?"

Need we fear that there *can* be a clashing of our duties? No! only by feeling, thinking and acting like human souls, can we be fitted for wives and mothers. While we sedulously continue to fulfill every the most minute household duty, let us do it as remembering also that

"Our tasks
Are more, and nobler! we have to endure;
And to keep watch; and to arouse a land;
And to defend an altar?"

Doubt not that we shall be able to do all this, through Christ strengthening us. Let us remember for our encouragement, that the nature of truth is to produce conviction; that there is truly a divine philosophy in the expectation we draw from the sacred pages, that the weak things of the world shall confound the mighty.

My heart is with you. I had hoped to meet you on this occasion, in company with one who is now numbered with the just made perfect; but I will not mourn as without comfort over the prostration of my hope. Her intercessions for us are even now, doubtless, ascending with those of the other beloved ones who have "fallen in the armor." Feeble and faltering though we be, their heavenly progress will in no wise divide their hearts from ours: for they learned while in the flesh, that sympathy and love for the oppressed and the afflicted, which is but increased by entrance into heaven.

I am ever yours, for the enslaved,

MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN.

CONCORD, N. H., May 2, 1837.

LADIES OF THE FEMALE A. S. CONVENTION :

RESPECTED AND BELOVED—

My heart salutes you in the bonds of that unity of spirit and object, which has drawn you together at this time. "For I am with you in spirit, joying and beholding your order, the stedfastness of your faith," and your holy zeal in the cause of the oppressed, them "who have no comforter." God bless and preside over your deliberations! and grant that they may render you more efficient in aiding to remove "the oppressions that are done under the [American] sun," and thus wipe away "the tears of such as are oppressed," leading them to "the God of all consolation."

Being deprived, by the state of my health, of the high privilege of a seat among you, to which I have been kindly entitled, by the little band in Concord, I entreat you to bear with this expression of my feelings, and allow me to communicate to you some facts relating to the progress of the blessed cause in New Hampshire.

It was no earlier than the last month in the year 1833, that the first Anti-Slavery Society was formed in the State, in Plymouth, where also, the first Female Society was organized in the February ensuing. These societies owe their origin chiefly to the instrumentality of the ever-to-be-remembered George Thompson, the *patriot* of the world. Few lecturers had preceded him in New Hampshire, nor has an appointed agent been employed here since for any length of time, except George Storrs, who labored through good and evil report during one year, ending in 1836, and was successful in scattering the good seed, which is now springing up in various portions of the state. Two agents, Rev. David Root, and Rev. D. J. Robinson, are now laboring in this state with good success. According to the latest returns, we have now sixty societies, nine of which are female, and several of the others are composed of males and females. All these are respectable in point of numbers, and all, it is believed, are true to the cause.

The Ladies' Society of Concord, numbers 120 and more—several have been added since our last Annual Meeting. They are mostly thorough in principle, and may be counted stedfast. So great is the unanimity among New Hampshire female abolitionists, and so much are they in harmony with the great mass, that we are confident they will concur in whatever general measures you may see meet to adopt, and respond to whatever resolutions may be passed in your Convention. We are hoping for important results from your deliberations. We hope the cause of oppressed humanity will receive from them a new impetus among our own sex, and that numbers of enlightened Christian minds and hearts, which are now by various causes kept back, will flock to the Anti-Slavery standard.

That you may have the wisdom that is profitable to direct—that you may do all as becometh women professing godliness—that your minds may be stayed on God, and that He may graciously watch over and protect you, and return you safely to your homes and friends, is the fervent prayer of your humble but affectionate sister in the cause of our brethren and sisters in bondage,

MARY CLARK.

PUTNAM, OHIO, April 24, 1837.

DEAR FRIEND—

I cannot well express to you the very great satisfaction with which I have noticed the movements of some of the "wise hearted" of my own sex, in their efforts for the *abolition of Slavery*. If *woman* is ever called upon to arise in all the majesty of virtue, and lift up her voice against any prevailing system of iniquity, it is when *woman* is made the victim of brutal lust and unlimited power—when the barriers to moral purity are overthrown—when the right of marriage is annihilated—the domestic relations disregarded, and the hearth-stone made desolate, by the base cupidity of man. All this, and much more, slavery is wantonly perpetrating, with unblushing front, in the fairest portion of our republic. Nor is its deleterious influence confined to that section alone. It is felt through all the various ramifications of society, and like an insidious foe, is secretly undermining the very foundations of domestic happiness. Whether we regard it in the light of patriotism or religion, we are called upon by all that we hold dear in both, to employ the gentle, yet omnipotent force of truth for its overthrow. To use motive, argument, entreaty, both singly and combined, for bringing the subject fairly before the minds of our countrywomen, if, by any means we may arouse them from that death-like slumber which seems but the premonition of swift-coming destruction.

The contemplated movement, in which you have done me the honor to invite my co-operation, is one which meets with my most cordial approbation. Most gladly would I be present on that occasion, to sit at your feet and listen to your councils, to unite in your high and holy resolutions, touching the dearest interests of humanity. But duties of a more imperious nature, bind me for the present to the domestic circle. In the discharge of these duties however, I trust I shall not forget to bear you, and your *high minded* associates on my heart, when I enter the presence chamber of Him, who is "King of kings, and Lord of lords." Blessed be his name, he ruleth over all, and by him shall the machinations of the ungodly be defeated, when he ariseth "for the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, to set him in safety from him that puffeth at him."

While I thus write I think I do but express the sentiments of very many of our sisters in Ohio, whose hearts and even lives are pledged, to the upraising of the down-trodden and the deliverance of the captive.

The Lord be with you on that interesting occasion to which I have alluded, preside in your councils, and enlighten you by his Spirit, and may an impulse be thus given to the onward progress of universal emancipation, which shall tell on the history of man's redemption, both natural and spiritual, throughout eternal ages.

Yours in behalf of the oppressed,

MARIA A. STURGES.

The following has been received since the Convention.

TO THE LADIES OF THE AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETIES.

DEAR SISTERS,

We take shame to ourselves that we have never yet addressed you,—more especially when we recollect that we have for some months been in possession of the touching and heart-stirring appeals from the New-England and Boston

Ladies' Anti-Slavery Societies to the women of our own country:—justice, however, demands of us to say, that although these appeals have remained unanswered, they have not remained unused. Immediately on our obtaining a copy of them, we had a large number printed, and extensively circulated in our town and neighborhood; and we assure you they have been instrumental in exciting powerful, and we trust abiding, interest and sympathy. Words can but feebly express the admiration with which we have heard and read of your magnanimous and unwearied exertion on behalf of a deeply injured portion of our fellow-beings,—how meekly, but firmly, you have borne obloquy, scorn, and persecution,—and how unflinchingly you persevere in your Christian course, relying on that God who has promised never to leave nor forsake those who put their trust in him. We would adore his merciful providence, in raising up such noble champions in his righteous cause. We ardently sympathize with you—our prayers ascend for you—would that we could do more!—that with heart and hand we could labor with you in your generous struggle for the extinction of the accursed system of slavery, that withering blight on your beautiful country.

When we read your details of daily and wanton cruelty to the slave, (a repetition of the same horrors in which we were ourselves so lately implicated,) our hearts sicken within us,—but still more are we appalled when we contemplate the awful sin of the master; we tremble in view of that day of righteous retribution when infinite justice must pronounce a final doom on the oppressor.

We are, however, told, that we have nothing to do with slavery in America; that we *can do* nothing towards its extermination; we feel indeed that we can *do* little, but we can *say* something,—and shall we remain silent, when we behold such a mass of sin and iniquity, of cruelty and oppression, overwhelm a sister country, claiming the same ancestry, speaking the same language, and professing the same Christianity with ourselves!

We watch with deep interest your progress,—we hail with delight any glad tidings from your land,—we greatly rejoice in the vast increase of laborers in freedom's sacred cause; and when clouds of discouragement arise to darken your horizon, we would remind you of the immutable promises of God's own word:—"For the oppression of the poor, now will I arise, saith the Lord." "The needy shall not alway be forgotten." "The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed." "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God," &c.

Go on, then, beloved sisters, in the strength of the Lord, pursue your noble work, till slavery, with the odious and unchristian distinction of color, be no longer known amongst you.

We cannot take leave of you without bearing our testimony to the piety, the self-devotion, the eloquence, and the unwearied exertion, of our highly appreciated friend GEORGE THOMPSON;—to his labors we greatly owe the powerful feeling excited for your cause, a feeling which we trust will never subside in our land, while one slave may be found toiling in your "fields of the South."

With much Christian regard we remain

Your affectionately interested Sisters.

On behalf of the Committee of the Newcastle on Tyne Ladies' Emancipation Society.

FEB. 23, 1837.

(Signed) MARIA SMITH, Sec'ry.

