

i. Excerpts from broadside in response to the Fugitive Slave Law (1850)

We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the Old Bay State is to become a hunting-ground for slaves. We will not believe that Massachusetts freemen will lend their aid to this monstrous inhumanity, until sad experience shall have demonstrated the fact. Who is there who is so heartless as not to be willing to succor and assist William and Ellen Craft? Where shall we find the man with soul so dead as to be willing to seize the heroic woman, Betsey Blakeley, who, concealed on board ship, escaped from Wilmington, N. C.? Whose house and purse would not be opened to afford her shelter and protection against the slave-hunter? No! the law cannot be enforced in Massachusetts! It is contrary to the moral sense of the community, and the community will repudiate it. 'Pass enactments,' says the earnest-souled Henry Ward Beecher, 'enough to fill all the archives of the Senate, and your slave-catcher shall not budge an inch faster than he now does in the North. Every village will spurn him. Every yeoman along the valleys will run the slave, and trip the shameless hunter. Bread and shelter, protection and direction, will be the slave's portion north of Mason and Dixon's line, with more certainty and effect every year that elapses, until the day of emancipation.' * * 'It will be so, because, since the world began, the sympathies of common men have been with the weak and oppressed. In that sympathy, they have conformed to the fundamental law of humanity, which lies deeper in the consciousness of honest men than any national compact can ever go. Man cannot plant parchments as deep as God plants principles. The Senate of the

Freemen of Massachusetts! Followers of Christ, the Redeemer! Believers in a higher law than that of man, even the unchangeable law of God! The hour has come to prove your unfaltering attachment to liberty—the sincerity of your religious profession—that you are not atheistical in heart! As citizens, it is your prerogative to question the constitutionality of any enactment of Congress, and, in case you are convinced of its illegality, to contest it, as such, till a final decision be made by the rightful judicatory. As moral and religious men, you cannot obey an immoral and irreligious statute, whether it be constitutional or otherwise, without forfeiting your character, and committing gross impiety. The edict of Nebuchadnezzar, setting up the golden image to be worshipped, on pain of the rebellious being cast into the den of lions, was just as obligatory as is the fugitive slave law of Congress. This law is to be denounced, resisted, disobeyed, at all hazards. Its enforcement on Massachusetts soil must be rendered impossible. The testimony against it must be so emphatic and universal, that no slave hunter will dare to make his appearance among us, and no officer of the government presume to give any heed to it. The religious or political journal that refuses to record its protest against the law must be marked, exposed, and held up to popular abhorrence. In every city, town and village, the clergy, of all denominations, should be respectfully requested, by deputation or letter, to arraign the law from the pulpit as inhuman and immoral, and therefore null and void; and, should any shrink from the performance of a duty so clearly obligatory, let their names be published to the world, and handed down to posterity.

Let a vigilance committee be appointed in every place, whose duty it shall be to succor and help, in every way, the fugitive slave. Let those who exercise the elective franchise send up such senators and representatives to the next Legislature as will be ready to give official expression to the deep detestation of the law of Congress which pervades the Commonwealth. Bear in mind, that laws which are contrary to public opinion are dead, though living on the statute book.

SLAVE CATCHING. If those who have passed the new slave catching bill think it will be the means of returning many slaves, they are, in our apprehension, greatly mistaken. It may be the means of oppressing some kind-hearted men who relieve the necessities of the stranger who asks their aid when flying from oppression; and it will, we doubt not, make the whole system more odious than ever; but without the aid of public sentiment, it can never effect the objects intended by its passage. We shall now see who there is amongst us that will consent to take the office of PUBLIC SLAVE CATCHER. If there is such an one, he ought to be known.—*Worcester Spy.*

- i. Anti-slavery fair: it is proposed by women of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society to hold a fair in aid of the treasury... (MA Historical Society Call Number: Bdses-Sm 1840

Anti-Slavery Fair.

It is proposed by women of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society to hold a FAIR in aid of the treasury, some time in the month of October next, in the city of Boston. One specific object they have in view, is, to sustain the Rev. JOHN A. COLLINS as General Agent of the Massachusetts Society. Doubtless, however, a much larger amount will be raised than is requisite for this purpose, and the remainder will be devoted towards the other operations of the Society. The undersigned offer the results of several years experience in this mode of raising funds, to such individuals and Societies throughout the State as may have the disposition to co-operate with them, in taking advantage of the city market for the benefit of the slave. We affectionately invite all such, to co-operate with us personally, by taking tables at our Fair, in behalf of their respective towns, the proceeds to be THEIRS, for the Mass. Society—credit being thus given where credit is due. It will be our joy to offer a heartfelt hospitality to those who feel inclined to pass the week of the Fair in Boston.

Letters and parcels from individuals who cannot attend personally, may be directed to Maria W. Chapman, 25 Cornhill, Boston.

MARIA W. CHAPMAN,
MARY A. W. JOHNSON,
THANKFUL SOUTHWICK,
LOUISA LORING,
ELIZA F. MERRIAM,
ANN T. G. PHILLIPS,
MARY YOUNG,
CAROLINE WESTON,

MARY G. CHAPMAN,
ELIZA LEE FOLLEN,
HENRIETTA SARGENT,
SUSAN PAUL,
ELIZA PHILBRICK,
ANNE W. WESTON,
HELEN E. GARRISON.

- ii. No Slavery!: Fourth of July! The managers of the Mass. Anti-slavery Soc'y invite, without distinction of party or sect, all who are ready...to meet at convention at the Grove in Framingham (MA Historical Society Call Number: Bdses-L 1854 July 4)

NO SLAVERY!

FOURTH OF JULY!

The Managers of the
Mass. ANTI-SLAVERY SOC'Y

Invite, without distinction of party or sect, **ALL** who are ready and mean to be known as on **LIBER-**
TY'S side, in the great struggle which is now upon us, to meet in convention at the

GROVE IN FRAMINGHAM,

On the approaching **FOURTH OF JULY**, there to pass the day in no idle glorying in our country's liberties, but in deep humiliation for her Disgrace and Shame, and in resolute purpose---God being our leader--- to rescue old Massachusetts at least from being bound forever to the car of Slavery.

SPECIAL TRAINS

Will be run on that day, **TO THE GROVE**, from Boston, Worcester, and Milford, leaving each place at 9 25 A. M.

RETURNING--Leave the Grove about 5 1-2 P. M. **FARE**, by all these Trains, to the Grove and back,

FIFTY CENTS.

The beauty of the Grove, and the completeness and excellence of its accommodations, are well known.

EMINENT SPEAKERS,

From different quarters of the State, will be present.

Earle & Drew, Printers, 212 Main Street, Worcester.