



American Anti-Slavery Society.

Business Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

The seventh Annual Meeting for business purposes, in the Grand Free Church in New-York, on Tuesday, May 12th, at 4 o'clock P. M.

The President being absent, Francis Jackson, of Massachusetts, one of the Vice Presidents, took the chair.

Prayer was offered by Benjamin Shaw, of Vermont. On motion of the Recording Secretary, the following Assistant secretaries were appointed:

CHAS. L. KNAPP, of Vermont. WILLIAM F. GARRISON, of Massachusetts. WILLIAM F. GARRISON, of New Jersey. SAMUEL D. HASTINGS, of Pennsylvania. CHARLES L. REMOND, of Rhode Island.

The call was then made for the names of members to constitute the roll.

On motion of C. W. Demmon, Mr. Black, from Jamaica, W. L. Garrison, was read in the society. The following persons were named by the chair, and appointed the Committee of Business:

William Lloyd Garrison, Chairman, Ischaac Codrington, Thomas Davis, Rowland T. Robinson, Amos Phelps, Abner K. Lincoln, L. Chas. Burleigh, Tappan, Charles C. Burleigh, Charles W. Gardner, and Charles W. Demmon.

The vote appointing Miss Kelly being doubted, the house was divided, and on a count there appeared 557 in favor, heretofore, and 100 against.

On motion of John A. Collins of Massachusetts, it was voted that no person should speak more than five minutes at one time; and on motion of Mr. Gleason of Connecticut, it was voted that no person should speak more than twice at the same session.

Mr. Robinson, of New Hampshire, moved a resolution, that it be decided that the names of all those who have been expelled from the society, and all those who have been expelled from the society, should be published by audible demonstrations.

Pending this question, the Society adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING. The Society met pursuant to adjournment. Francis Jackson in the chair. Prayer by Charles W. Gardner of Pennsylvania.

The following letters were read by the Recording Secretary, by request of the Chairman of the Business Committee:

LETTER FROM TWENTY MINISTERS OF THE M. E. CHURCH. BALTIMORE, Md. May 9th, 1840. To the American A. S. Society:

We the undersigned, ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and members of the General Conference of said church, now assembled in the city of Baltimore, take this method to address you.

It would have afforded us great pleasure to meet with you on the present occasion, and some of us would have done it, had it not been for our connection with this Conference. We represent the church in the States where we reside, thus, in his highest ecclesiastical council.

We regard the present meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society as one of immense importance to the Anti-Slavery cause, and it is our earnest prayer, that the general of universal emancipation, rather, the God of truth and love, may preside in your councils and direct in your decisions.

We exceedingly regret the present aspect of the Anti-Slavery Society, and we are affected with unfeigned sorrow that any subjects, foreign to the design in which it originated, should have disturbed its councils and diverted its friends from the great object to the accomplishment of which their efforts should be directed—the annihilation of slavery.

We address you, not in the character of Methodist, or Methodist ministers, though such we are, but as lovers of our country and of universal man. We believe that abolitionists should use the whole of their influence, for the removal of slavery from our country and the world.

And without expressing any opinion as to the propriety of a third political party, we believe that it is the duty of abolitionists to carry their principles to the polls and use effective means, by every means, to secure the triumph of the party which they trust committed to them in the providence of God, for the faithful use of which they are responsible to the highest tribunal in the universe.

We exceedingly regret that the operations of the Anti-Slavery Society, and we are affected with unfeigned sorrow that any subjects, foreign to the design in which it originated, should have disturbed its councils and diverted its friends from the great object to the accomplishment of which their efforts should be directed—the annihilation of slavery.

Yet, we cannot but hope that the American Society, by the adoption of such measures, will effectively discharge this holy cause from all foreign and extraneous subjects. Belonging as we do, in different States, we are to a very considerable extent, acquainted with the views entertained by our friends of our cases in those States, and we know that we are looking to the doings of your body, at present, with intense interest, that the single purpose of the Anti-Slavery enterprise shall, by you, be so disincumbered and made to stand forth before the American People with such pre-eminence, that they may understand what is the great and only object of its organization. That you may be directed by wisdom from above, and your present doings more effectually than ever promote this object, is the prayer of yours for the true friends of the cause.

Joseph A. Merrill, Jotham Horton, Oranger Scott, Frederick Upham, Massachusetts; Phineas Crandall, E. W. Stickney, A. D. Merrill, Rhode Island; Ezekiel Robinson, Benj. Jones, Mass. Hill, Dan. B. Randall, W. C. Bailey, N. H. Adams, J. Perkins, C. D. Cahoon, S. Chamberlin, Jas. Templeton, Vermont and New Hampshire; J. M. Dodge, John Parker, New York.

LETTER FROM THE PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGANY A. S. SOCIETIES. At a meeting of members of the Old Pittsburgh and Alleghany A. S. Societies, held in the first Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, on Monday evening, May 5th, by special invitation, to consider subjects of importance in regard to the approaching anniversary of the National A. S. Society, to be held in New York on the 12th inst.

It was resolved, that we most solemnly deprecate the scheme proposed in the Emancipator, of forming an Independent Board of Commissioners for the abolition of American Slavery, like that of the A. B. C. F. M. Society, and the appointment of such boards under their control, and that we most solemnly deprecate the appointment of such boards under their control, and that we most solemnly deprecate the appointment of such boards under their control.

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and also by the Emancipator, in giving countenance to the deplorable divisions in the anti-slavery cause in Massachusetts.

Resolved, that we would deprecate any steps on our part, which would have the effect of bringing us into connection with those who, for conscience sake, have distinguished themselves; being convinced that such intercourse was never contemplated at the National Convention in 1839.

Resolved, that we deprecate the formation of an American Anti-Slavery Party, similar to that which had been formed in England, and which had the effect of dividing the anti-slavery cause in that country.

Resolved, that we consider the platform of the National A. S. Society, as laid down in 1839, sufficient ample to admit all true friends of the oppressed, without infringing on the rights of conscience. We desire it may remain, and therefore solemnly deprecate all attempts to narrow the platform by forced interpretations, or to lower the standard of moral principle.

Resolved, that if it be not our duty to maintain political men who refuse to advocate the cause of liberty and the rights of the slave, still more it is not our duty, (since in the church the leprosy begins) to sustain churches or professed ministers, who, without any regard to conscience, endeavor to obey the mandate of heaven in these particulars. If the former are unworthy of confidence, the latter are much more so; as the potency of Christian influence exceeds that of political.

Resolved, that without attempting to justify ourselves, or of every step of the Liberator, during the present unhappy dissensions in Massachusetts, the fearful and fearless editor of that paper, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, has our unshaken confidence.

Resolved, that we most cordially approve of the uncompromising fidelity of the Old Pioneer A. S. Society of Massachusetts, in defending and sustaining the rights of the slave, and the principles of 1839.

Resolved, that as we most sincerely desire to preserve the peace and harmony of the anti-slavery cause, and to see the conflicting powers of the world often harmonized by the counsel of a third disinterested party, so we think, if the contending parties of Massachusetts will agree to the counsel of a few of the pious, the wise, and the benevolent, whom they will meet in London during the World's Convention, and submit thereto, that they may again, like kindred drops, be mingled into one; otherwise we fear wider divisions will take place, and the cause of the slave will rest upon those who love more than party principle.

Resolved, that the foregoing Resolutions be immediately transmitted for publication in the Liberator, Herald of Freedom, Emancipator, Freeman, Christian Witness, and Philanthropist.

Wm. M. Chace moved that the letters be published with the proceedings of the Society, which motion, on motion of S. J. May, was laid upon the table.

The resolution offered yesterday, by Mr. Robinson, of New Hampshire, was taken up and carried. On motion of Seth Sprague, of Massachusetts, it was resolved, that the rules of practice in the Manual be adopted for our guidance, except as they may be altered from time to time by vote of the Society.

Ellis Gray Loring of Massachusetts offered a resolution, which, after being amended, was adopted as follows: Resolved, that no resolution shall be brought before the Society without having been first presented to the business committee.

On motion of C. C. Burleigh, Edwin Russell, of Indiana, was added to the business committee.

On motion of C. C. Burleigh, voted that a committee of one from each State Society be appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

A series of resolutions on political action was presented by the business committee, the last of which was taken up first, and rejected as follows: Resolved, that it is inexpedient for the existing Anti-Slavery Societies to take any action in reference to elections, nominations, or candidates for office, other than to recommend candidates to all candidates who will in any manner sustain, in their official action, the institution of slavery.

The Society then adjourned till 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The Society met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Otis Thompson of Massachusetts.

The President nominated and the society appointed the following persons to nominate officers for the ensuing year: Thos. Earle, Pennsylvania; D. L. Child, Massachusetts; Thos. Van Rensselaer, New York; Nathan Winslow, Me.; Joseph Sison, Rhode Island; Wm. M. Chace, New Jersey; Wm. Lloyd Garrison, New Hampshire; James B. Whitcomb, Indiana; Benjamin Webb, Delaware; Robert Hanna, Ohio; A. N. Dougherty, New Jersey; R. L. Robinson, Vermont; J. J. Miller, Illinois.

On motion of O. Johnson, voted to suspend the rules, and to allow the reading of 15 minutes to be given in relation to the self-emancipated slaves in Canada. After his remarks, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

Resolved, that the colored population of Upper Canada, having broken their galling chains and sought refuge in this country, and being thus recognized and protected by their own government, should be recognized by our nation, and be not only entitled to the warmest, kindest sympathies of our friends, but as citizens of our country, should be admitted to the same rights and privileges as our fellow citizens.

Resolved, that the mission, now in progress for the relief of the colored people in the West Indies, and anti-slavery enterprise, is entitled to the cheerful and liberal patronage of every true-hearted abolitionist.

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organized among us, and save us from the disgrace I apprehend, in the prayer of your friend, (Signed) A. TAPPAN.

On motion of W. L. Garrison, voted, that the business of the Society be adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1840. The Society met pursuant to adjournment. Francis Jackson in the chair. Prayer by David Miller, of New York.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison read various propositions to amend the Constitution of the Society. They were all indefinitely postponed, except the one which proposed that the Executive Committee should be elected by the Society, instead of the Board of Managers. This last was adopted by the constitutional majority.

W. L. Garrison, from the Business Committee, reported a series of resolutions relative to the sale of the Emancipator, which, after being amended, were adopted as follows:

Resolved, that the reasons assigned in the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the sale and transfer of the Emancipator are unsatisfactory to this Society, for the following among other reasons:

1. Because the receipts in the treasury, within the past year, have been insufficient to pay the expenses of the Emancipator, and the resources of the Society at the time of said transfer much exceeded its liabilities; and there was, therefore, no prospect of a permanent want of means to continue its publication.

2. Because the transfer of the organ which has been the object for several years of a heavy expenditure on the part of the American Anti-Slavery Society, without consulting that Society, and on the eve of its annual meeting, is a want of proper respect to said Society, for the will of their constituents—a want of a deviation from the line of their duty, and can hardly fall to be injurious to the anti-slavery cause.

Resolved, that the Executive Committee be authorized to correspond with L. Tappan and S. W. Benedict, in relation to the sale of the Emancipator, and to assume such responsibilities, in the name of the Society, as may in their judgment secure the most economical disposition of it.

On behalf of the Society, J. S. GIBBONS, Chairman. Resolved, that the Executive Committee be authorized to correspond with L. Tappan and S. W. Benedict, in relation to the sale of the Emancipator, and to assume such responsibilities, in the name of the Society, as may in their judgment secure the most economical disposition of it.

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The Finance Committee made the following report, which was accepted, and the resolution recommended by them adopted:

The Committee on Finance report: That, by a statement of the publishing agent, presented at the Executive Committee March 26, it appears that the total amount of stock on hand, consisting of books, stereos, plates, &c. together with the amount of debts due from individuals, was \$18,500.25.

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of this Society, and trusts that that association will perceive the justice and necessity of altering it.

T. Earle, from the committee on the property of the Society, presented the following statement from W. Benedict, on behalf of the Trustees in whose hands the property now is, which was referred to the Executive Committee:

The Trustees will re-convey the property in their hands for the sum of \$1500, and for a satisfactory bond to secure the payment of any costs and expenses that may result from the sale of Nash and Benedict for their own use, and for the purchase of bonds of about \$1000 for the Amistad captives, and for any liabilities which may accrue by virtue of the past acts of the Society as agents of the American A. S. Society.

S. W. BENEDICT, For the Trustees. E. G. Loring, from the committee on the transfer of the Emancipator, presented a report, appended to which was the following order, which was unanimously adopted:

Ordered, that the Executive Committee be authorized to establish a new Anti-Slavery Journal to be published in this city, under their supervision; and that they be instructed to request of the Executive Committee of the N. Y. City A. S. Society to furnish the committee with the names and addresses of the subscribers to the said journal, in order that a free opportunity may be afforded to the abolitionists of this country to elect which of the two Anti-Slavery papers it is their desire to support.

The following resolution, from the Business Committee, was adopted: Resolved, that we respectfully recommend to abolitionists, that they abstain from all party politics, and that they devote their whole energies to the cause of the oppressed, and that they be instructed to request of the Executive Committee of the N. Y. City A. S. Society to furnish the committee with the names and addresses of the subscribers to the said journal, in order that a free opportunity may be afforded to the abolitionists of this country to elect which of the two Anti

