



Weymouth Mass. Feby. 3. 1841.

Gentlemen,

At the annual meeting of the Anti Slavery Soc. recently held in this town, the following, among other resolutions, was adopted - which I was requested to transmit to you, with the money, that was collected. The sum is much smaller than I wish it was. The donors did not designate the manner of its application: as the committee have the whole care under their eye, & know best what use to make of it to promote the good of the unfortunate men for whose benefit it was contributed, we leave the mode of expending it entirely to yourselves. The sum enclosed is \$9.00.

"Resolved, that we consider the detention and imprisonment of the Africans, taken in the Amistad, as unconstitutional and cruel; and, while we sympathise with them, and rejoice to learn that so many are ready to defend their rights, we will shew the sincerity of our sympathy, by now taking a collection in their behalf."

I can not suffer this opportunity to pass without saying that, from the first apprehension of these oppressed Africans, to the present moment, I have felt an increasing interest in their case, and have viewed, with pleasure, the course, which the committee, charged with their defence, have pursued. I feel that this committee should be encouraged & cheered onward in their heaven-approving labours of love, to deliver these cruelly & wickedly oppressed people, from the illegal grasp of our government, and thus save them from a

Spanish scaffold! How unjust, that men, & children even, who, - the constituted authorities say, have committed no crime for which they can be tried by our laws, must be imprisoned in prison, treated as the worst of fellows, and be compelled, illegally, to await the tardy process of trial, to receive a discharge and regain the liberty for which they so nobly fought! Had these men been white, had they performed the same act upon the commander of a piratical vessel, or the command ship of their country's enemy, on board of which they were detained as prisoners, would not their heroic deed have been trumpeted through the land? Would they have been imprisoned and held to answer for their conduct at the tribunals of justice? Ah, no! Our national government would have voted them a reward; and the President would have been proud to communicate it. Has it come to this then, that the color of the skin must decide the merits & even the lawfulness of the same act? Has the spirit of '76 fled our country? Have the sons of the revolutionary patriots, become thus reciant to the principles of liberty & of moral rights? Can these who fought and bled to deliver themselves & their country from British oppression, condemn to death, or deliver over to the bloody hands of Cuba, for execution, those noble men, who, after they had ^{fought} to deliver themselves & their posterity from the most cruel and endless servitude, were thrown by the Providence of God, upon these shores of boasted liberty, for protection? Forbid it consistency! Forbid it heaven! May God in mercy prevent our country from adding this foul sin to her numberless others, of crimson hue, relative to the down trodden children of bleeding Africa!

But, Gentlemen, however this case may be decided and whatever may be the ultimate fate of these unfortunate men, and children, you will enjoy the approbation of an approving conscience that you have done what you could to awaken a sympathy in the public mind in their behalf and deliver ~~them~~ ^{them} from those who are apparently thirsting for their blood. To you will

be awarded the mead of praise from every American citizen, whose praise is worth receiving, yea, from every philanthropist in the world, for your able and indefatigable labors in their behalf. And what is more, when you stand at the bar of the final Judge, before whom the guilty oppressors of God's poor must quail, you will hear him say, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me", & then, you will not lose your reward.

Would the guilty oppressors of these unfortunate men, & all others in similar circumstances, only extend their views forward to this dread scene, and anticipate, as they may, its solemn and eternal retributions, it would so relax their muscles, that they would instantly loose their hold on the victims of their cupidity,



and cause them to restore to them their wrested rights and privileges. I have often, in anticipation, stood at that bar, with the guilty oppressors of the poor slave; and, guided in my meditations by that precious revelation which God has given us as the rule of our conduct. I can not find a line, nor a word, in that book; nor can I discover an attribute in the character of the Judge, which inspires the least hope of a favorable ~~or~~ blessed issue in his case! Oh, how much then does the guilty oppressor, deserve our sympathies & our prayers! How unceasingly should we sound in his ears the notes of alarm, & make every possible appeal to his conscience, that, if possible, he may be awshamed to see his perilous condition and repent & do works meet for repentance, before it be too late & eternally too late. In behalf of the Royalston Anti-Slavery Socy. }
L. Tappan Esq }
Rev. J. Leavitt } com. I am, gentlemen, yours, in the cause of the oppressed.
Rev. S. S. Jocelyn }
Samuel H. Peckham.

Lawrence Peckham
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\$9.

Feb 3, 1841

South Royalston
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