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The twenty-fourth annual meeting of this Society was held in the Town Hall, Kennett Square, Chester County, commencing on Thursday, Oct. 25th, at 11 o'clock, A.M.—James Mott, President of the Society, in the chair. After some encouraging preliminary remarks by Lucretia Mott and J. Miller McKim, the following committees were appointed:—

Business Committee —MayGrew, Mahlon B. Linton, Simon Barnard, Robert Purvis, Oliver Johnson, H.P. Grozier, Lucretia Mott, Thomas Whitson, and Sarah Pugh.

Finance Committee —Chandler Darlington, Alice Jackson, E.M. Davis, Samuel Pennock, Joseph A. Dugdale, Isaac Mendenhall, and Abby Kimber.

Nominating Committee —John Cox, George Atkinson, Sarah Barnard, Edwin H. Coates, Jolly Long-shore, Stephen Smith and Rebecca Plumly.

The following resolutions were offered, and, after a discussion extending through five sessions, adopted:

1. Resolved, That we regard with great satisfaction the agitation that is now rocking the country to its centre in the question of slavery, confident that its effect will be such an enlightenment of the public mind and change of the public heart on that momentous issue, as must eventuate in the overthrow of the system.
2. Resolved, That in the action of the various ecclesiastical bodies of the North, we see indubitable evidence of the power with which the anti-slavery sentiment of the country presses upon them, sometimes extorting from them faint and unwilling testimonies against slavery, and sometimes eliciting hearty denunciation thereof; and that, in the course of such clergymen as Dr. Cheever, we see indications of a regenerated and purified Church, against which Anti-Slavery Societies can have no controversy.
3. Resolved, That as long as the fugitive bondman may be recaptured and re-enslaved in Pennsylvania soil, Pennsylvania cannot be called a free State; and that, for the honor of our Commonwealth, for the sake of justice to the slave, for the love of the absolute Right, we will earnestly strive to obtain from our Legislature the enactment of a law which shall protect the personal liberty of every human being on its soil, when that liberty has not been forfeited by crime.
4. Resolved, That one of the most important signs of the times which the last year has developed, is the sympathy with John Brown, which has extensively pervaded the North, and found expression in the pulpit, on the platform, and through the press; indicating that, whatever theories men may hold respecting State and constitutional obligations, there lives

and burns in the Northern heart a genuine admiration of heroism, and a genuine sympathy with the victims of oppression.

5. Resolved, That while we hail, as a token of greatly improved public sentiment, the existence of the Republican party of the United States, and while we rejoice to see men coming up into it from the other political parties, we protect against the inconsistency of Abolitionists giving it their support; first, because such support involves a pledge to return the Presidential candidate of its party is heartily opposed to the political enfranchisement of colored men, is in favor of a fugitive slave statute, and though he has 'very distinctly made up' his mind 'that Congress possesses the constitutional power to abolish' slavery in the District of Columbia, yet is not in favor of such abolition, excepting with the consent of a large number of the slaveholders of the District.

6. Resolved, That the experience of a quarter of a century of anti-slavery labor has confirmed our faith in the principles on which our enterprise is founded, in the wisdom of the measures by which we have sought its accomplishment, and in the certainty of its final triumph; and that, thus confirmed and strengthened, we commence the labors of another year in abounding hope that, at its close, we shall rejoice in its success, as we rejoice to-day over the results of the past.

7. Resolved, That in the death of Theodore Parker, the American slaves have lost a faithful friend, and the Abolitionists a valuable coadjutor, whose great intellect, and large heart, and tireless energies, were devoted to the cause of philanthropy, and were ever most promptly given in the service of those who, by reason of their suffering or their wrongs, most needed sympathy, protection, or championship.

Those who participated in the discussion were Lucretia Mott, J.M. McKim, H.P. Crozier, Mary Grew, Oliver Johnson, Chandler Darlington, Edward M. Davis, Mahlon B. Linton, Thomas Garret, Anna E. Dickinson, Robert Purvis, Edwin H. Coates, Eusebius Barnard, William Thorne, Caleb Jackson, and Dr. Stebbins. Some of the speakers professed to regard the U.S. Constitution as an anti-slavery instrument, —[what an absurdity in view of its history, and of its concurrent construction and administrations by the nation ever since its formation!] and so objected to the fifth resolution. Dr. Stebbins was voluble in his denunciation of the Anti-Slavery movement, and laudation of the Republican party. [For a full re-port of the proceedings, occupying eleven columns, see the last week's *Anti-Slavery Standard*.]

The Annual 'Report of the Executive Committee was read by Mr. McKim. It was largely occupied with a just, forcible and discriminating review of the Harper's Ferry affair, and the noble character and desert of Capt. John Brown. We make the following extract from it, relative to political action—

'The position of this Committee on the question of supporting candidates for office is not a doubtful one. Their views of the Constitution and its requirements have often been expressed, and have undergone no change. Regarding that instrument as a league with oppression, iniquitous in its nature, and in its results disastrous, they cannot by word or act become parties to its obligations. Intending, as often as occasion may require, to aid the fugitive in his escape from slavery, they cannot, expressly or by implication agree to sand

him back to his master. Sympathizing with all men everywhere who spurn the yoke, and rise for the recovery of their liberty, they cannot stand pledged, in the intent and meaning of the phrase, to 'suppress domestic insurrection.' Objecting to all unequal distribution of political rights, they cannot be understood as agreeing to an arrangement by which, in the most important features of the government. one class of citizens have 'three-fifths' more of privilege than any other; especially when that class are the owners of slaves who use their extra power for the perpetuation of their system. As a matter of conscience, therefore, of personal honor, and of self-respect, the members of this Committee, and those whom they represent, cannot, by overt act or implied admission, come under obligation of support to the Constitution. Neither can they take any active part in the politics of the day, or be numbered among the recognized supporters of Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency. Holding, as they do, that the Federal compact is an infamous bargain, binding the free States to the support of slavery, the only duty they recognize in regard to it is that of laboring for its annulment. They cannot vote or take an active part in politics until that compact is either dissolved, or so construed, by authority recognized to be competent, as will give their suffrage, in the eyes of the world, the unambiguous meaning of a vote against slavery.

But, these considerations apart, there are other arguments of great weight against supporting for President the Republican candidate in the pending crisis. His past course in the matter of a Fugitive Slave Law; his present readiness to return the escaping bondman; his avowed willingness to discriminate against the black man in the award of political rights; and his declared hostility, except in a contingency not probable, to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—are facts, which, in the estimation of discriminating minds, disqualify him for the votes of uncompromising Abolitionists.

But, having said this, it is due to truth and candor to admit that, as between him and his opponents, and on the issues involved in the present contest, the election of Abraham Lincoln will be a great and encouraging triumph. It will mark a hopeful epoch in the progress of our cause. It will show, that amid all the corruption and demoralization that have prevailed, the nation is not totally depraved; that the predominating feeling in the country is in favor of liberty, assuring us, at the same time, that this feeling will in due season ripen into a conviction that will brook no further compromises with slavery. Regarding the matter in this light, we shall hail the election, should it take place, of Abraham Lincoln, as a most gratifying occurrence.

From the *administration* of Mr. Lincoln, at distinguished from his *election*, we are warranted in entertaining no confident hopes. His election, as the act of the people, so intended, will be a demonstration in favor of liberty; his administration, as the action of an individual, so constrained by the oath of office and surrounding circumstances, must be a continual support of slavery. Let not, therefore, any satisfaction here expressed be understood as based on expectations of *what will be done* by the incoming national administration.'

LETTER FROM WILLIAM LLOYD GAERISON.

The following letter was read to the meeting by Mr. McKim—

Boston, October 11, 1860.

MY DEAR FRIEND: Since I promised to attend the anniversary of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society at Kennett, I have been Buffering from a severe attack of bronchitis; and though at the present time it is considerably mitigated, I am under positive medical prohibition, in reference to public speaking, for some time to come; hence I must again disappoint my Pennsylvania friends—most deeply to my own regret and loss, for their magnetic presence is ever most delightful and strengthening to my spirit. I can only beg to be affectionately remembered to them all, and invoke upon their deliberations the blessing of the Infinite Father.

Twenty-five years ago this evening, I was in a cell in the Leverett street jail in this city—a device of the city authorities to save my life against the murderous designs of an infuriated mob of (so called) 'gentlemen of property and standing,' on account of my anti-slavery principles. Previous to my imprisonment, I was in the hands of the rioters for a time, who tore the clothes from my body as they dragged me through the streets, and who made the most desperate efforts to take me where they could apply a coat of tar and feathers, and commit such other outrages as their ungovernable malignity might suggest. Rescued at last, by the Mayor and his posse, it was deemed indispensable to my personal safety to commit me to prison! This was the only governmental protection that was vouchsafed to me. You remember all the circumstances of that memorable event, and I need not repeat them. Nearly all the prominent actors therein have been called to their final account, but the sacred and glorious cause which they madly attempted to overthrow is now shaping the destiny of the nation.

So far as the North is concerned, a marvellous change for the better has taken place in public sentiment in relation to the anti-slavery movement. The struggle for freedom of speech and of the press has every where been fought, and the victory won. A general enlightenment has taken place upon the subject of slavery. The opinions of a vast multitude have been essentially changed, and secured to the side of freedom. The conflict between free institutions and slave institutions is seen and acknowledged to be irrepressible—not of man's devising, but of God's ordering—and it is deepening in intensity daily, in spite of every effort of political cunning and religious sorcery to effect a reconciliation. The pending Presidential election witnesses a marked division between the political forces of the North and of the South; and though it relates, ostensibly, solely to the question of the further extension of slavery, it really signifies a much deeper sentiment in the breasts of the people of the North, which, in process of tilts, must ripen into more decisive action.

So far as the South is concerned, she has apparently waxed worse and worse—grown more and more desperate—revealed more and more of savage brutality and fiendish malignity, until her Crimeas and atrocities, not only as perpetrated upon her dehumanized slaves, but as inflicted upon Northern citizens and strangers within her limits, have become too numerous for record, and almost too horrible for belief.

But all this is the sign that the end is rapidly approaching. Peaceably, or by a bloody process, the oppressed will eventually obtain their freedom, and nothing can prevent it. Trusting that it may be achieved without the shedding of blood, I remain, Yours, for liberty and equality for all mankind.

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

J. MILLER MC KIM.