

May 2018

# Opdyke, George, Circular Letter.

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NEW YORK, JANUARY 5TH, 1864.

SIR:

A meeting will be held at Room No 18, Cooper Institute, on Friday evening next, January 8th, at 8 o'clock, to hear a statement from Mr. WILLIAM SHREVE BAILEY, of Kentucky, in relation to the establishment of a Press for the advocacy of Emancipation in that state.

Mr. BAILEY was for many years an earnest champion of freedom, by means of a newspaper called "The Free South," published by him at Newport, Kentucky. He persevered against much opposition, and at great personal hazard and loss, but with an increasing number of friends. In the excitement which followed the arrest of John Brown, his press was for the second time destroyed by a mob, and, under a law then passed, he was indicted for the alleged offence of circulating an "incendiary" paper.

But the progress of the war has greatly changed the aspect of affairs. The indictment has been withdrawn; loyal men may speak more freely; and it is believed that the time has come for a renewal of the attempt to advocate emancipation in the important state of Kentucky.

For this is needed the concurrence and aid of the friends of freedom in an effort to re-establish the paper at that place, a journal with a history to make its voice powerful with the working men of Kentucky, of whom Mr. BAILEY has been one for more than twenty years.

You are earnestly invited to attend on that occasion.

Yours, very respectfully,

GEORGE OPDYKE,  
WILLIAM C. BRYANT,  
JOSEPH P. THOMPSON,  
BENJAMIN N. MARTIN,  
CHARLES GOULD,  
EDGAR KETCHUM.