

May 2018

## Church Anti-Slavery Society, Boston, MA.

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# CHURCH ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,

## TREMONT TEMPLE,

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1859, AT 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

### PRAYER.

#### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT AND ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT,

REV. J. C. WEBSTER.

#### BRIEF REPORT BY THE SECRETARY,

REV. HENRY T. CHEEVER.

### ORIGINAL HYMN.

COMPOSED FOR THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH  
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

TUNE—"Duke Street."

God of the Nations! by whose power  
From chaos realms of empire came,  
Bless, consecrate, and own this hour  
Exalt and glorify Thy name.

God of our Land! through storm and night,  
Our Guide, Protector, constant Friend,  
In peril still, we trust Thy might,  
Calm, patient, faithful, to the end.

God of the wronged! Avenger, King!  
Arise, and let the oppressed go free;  
Let ransomed millions grateful bring  
Praise for deliverance unto Thee.

Head of the Church! arm us with might  
To toil, to wait, to do Thy will,  
Defend, through us, the Truth, the Right,  
Through us Thy purposes fulfil.

Then shall a wond'ring world accord  
Sublimest honors to our King,  
Millions enfranchised, own our Lord,  
And earth and heaven His triumph sing.

### ADDRESS

BY REV. J. N. MURDOCK, D.D., OF THE BAPTIST  
CHURCH.

### ADDRESS

BY THEODORE TILTON, OF THE NEW YORK  
INDEPENDENT.

### HYMN.

Hark! a voice from heaven proclaiming  
Comfort to the mourning slave:  
God has heard him long complaining,  
And extends his arm to save.  
Proud oppression  
Soon shall find a shameful grave.

Lo! the nation is arousing  
From its slumber long and deep;  
And the friends of God are waking,  
Never, never more to sleep  
While a bondman  
In his chains remains to weep.

Long, too long, have we been dreaming  
O'er our country's sin and shame;  
Let us now, the time redeeming,  
Press the helpless captive's claim,  
Till, exulting,  
He shall cast aside his chain.

### COLLECTION.

### ADDRESS

BY REV. E. O. HAVEN, D.D., OF THE METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

### ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE

OF THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH  
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, IMMEDIATELY AFTER  
THE PUBLIC EXERCISES.

### PUBLIC MEETING

AGAIN IN THE EVENING, AT 7½ O'CLOCK, IN TRE-  
MONT TEMPLE, WHEN ADDRESSES WILL BE  
MADE BY REV. DR. CHEEVER, OF  
NEW YORK, AND OTHERS.

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND CON- STITUTION OF THE CHURCH ANTI- SLAVERY SOCIETY.

#### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

- I. The rights of man, as man, sacred and in-  
alienable, without distinction of blood or races.
- II. Property in man impossible, as being with-  
out grant from the Creator, and equally contrary to  
natural justice and to revealed religion.
- III. The system of American slavery and the  
practice of slaveholding essentially and anti-

christian, and to be dealt with, therefore, as such,  
by Christian churches and ministers.

IV. The utter inadequacy and impossibility of  
any remedy or relief from slavery, but one that in-  
sists upon its inherent wrongfulness, its total in-  
trinsic baseness, and denies absolutely the wild  
and guilty fantasy that man can have property in  
man!

V. The duty of one family or section of the  
Christian church to rebuke and refuse fellowship  
to another section of the visible church, that denies  
the rights of man and the common brotherhood  
of humanity, by defending slavery and folding to  
its bosom slave sellers, slave buyers, and slave  
holders.

VI. No compromise with slavery allowable;  
but its total extinction to be demanded at once,  
in the name of God, who has commanded "to  
loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy  
burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that  
ye break every yoke."

VII. The total abolition of the vast system of  
American slavery to be accepted as the providen-  
tial mission and duty of the American clergy and  
the American churches of this generation.

VIII. The Church and the Ministry to form the  
conscience of the nation in respect to slavery, and  
to make it loyal to the higher law, against all un-  
just judgments of Courts, and unrighteous legisla-  
tion of Congress.

IX. The word of God our charter for freedom  
and our armory against slavery; and any assertion  
that the Lord God sanctions slavery practical  
infidelity.

X. Ultimate success sure, in the warfare with  
oppression, to a faithful Ministry and witnessing  
Church.

### CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. The object of this association being to  
unite all Christians on the basis of the Word of  
God against slavery, and to concentrate the ener-  
gies of the Christian Ministry and of Christian  
Churches upon the extinction of that great sin,  
the conditions of membership shall be the adoption  
of its pledge and principles, and the payment of  
an annual contribution for its support. And mem-  
bers of local societies formed on these principles  
shall be members in full of this society.

ART. 2. The officers of this society shall be a  
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,  
Auditor, and an Executive Committee of five, to  
be chosen annually by ballot.

ART. 3. The duties of the Officers and Commit-  
tee shall be to provide for and call public meet-  
ings, at such times and places as they see fit,  
in order to advocate the principles of the Society,  
to mould public opinion, to induce action by the  
churches with reference to slavery, and to inculcate  
the duties of civil government, of civil rulers, and  
of citizens, in respect to its overthrow.

ART. 4. Besides local and extraordinary meet-  
ings, which may be called at the discretion of the  
Officers and Committee, there shall be at least one  
public meeting annually, during the religious an-  
niversary week, in the cities of Philadelphia, New  
York, and Boston, for the free expression of the  
anti-slavery principle and sentiment of Christian  
Churches, as declared by this Society.

ART. 5. The expenses incurred by the officers  
of this Society in the prosecution of their duties,  
by the maintenance of public meetings, lectures,  
and the use of the press, shall be met by the  
resources derived from the annual contributions of  
members, and by such donations as benevolent  
individuals and churches shall bestow for the uses  
of this Society.

ART. 6. This constitution may be amended by  
a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any  
meeting, notice of said amendment having been  
given at any previous meeting.