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# LEWIS TAPPAN COLLECTION

Collection 101-1 to 101-3

Prepared & Revised by:  
Wilda D. Logan  
June 1980

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Scope Note

The Lewis Tappan collection, which spans 1/2 linear feet and covers the years 1847 to 1860, is probably a portion of Lewis Tappan's Anti-Slavery library presented to Howard University in 1873. Six scrapbooks constitute the bulk of the collection. The contents of the scrapbooks are newspaper clippings examining all angles and development of slavery and the anti-slavery movement. Holographic notes by Tappan are

found throughout the scrapbooks.

Highlights of the collection are clippings on Free Soil Conventions held in 1848 and 1852 and the National Liberty Convention of 1847 held in Buffalo, New York. The clippings on these conventions are detailed to the point of allowing close examination and analysis of each anti-slavery convention.

A smaller scrapbook of pious resolutions is the only item not associated with slavery but it probably was a guiding force in the day to day activities of Tappan.

Printed material includes admittance passes to anti-slavery meetings, including a "lady's pass." There are also two printed documents and samples of multi-colored slave grown

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----- cotton. Two catalogues of books and pamphlets pertaining to the Anti-Slavery Movement, one dated 1851 are included. Of special note is a manuscript regarding the British West India Colonies' import and export business from 1829 to 1840.

#### Biographical Data

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1788 May 23  | Born in Northampton, Ma., son of Benjamin and Sarah (Homes) Tappan.              |
| 1813 Sept. 7 | First marriage to Susanna Aspinwall, union produced six children.                |
| 1823 to 1837 | Merchant in various capacities. Enters into partnership with his brother Arthur. |
| 1833         | One of the founders of the New York Anti-Slavery Society.                        |
| 1839-1841    | Leader in the movement to secure the freedom                                     |

of Joseph Cinque and the Amistad captives.

- 1840 With the split in the American Anti-Slavery Society, Tappan led the formation of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and served as its treasurer
- 1841-1849 Established The Mercantil Agency as the first successful commercial credit rating agency in the country under the name Lewis Tappan and Co.
- 1843 Attended international Anti-Slavery convention in London at the suggestion of John Quincy Adams.
- 1846 Helped in the founding of the American Missionary Association and served as its treasurer.
- 1849 Retired from his enterprise to devote his life to humanitarian causes.
- 1854 Second marriage, to Mrs.-Sarah J. Davis.  
1855 Resigned as Correspondence Secretary of the American and Foreign Anti-Slave Society to accept office in the more militant Abolition Society.
- 1873 June 21 Died in Brooklyn,

### Series Description

- Series A Scrapbooks
- Box 101-1 to 101-2 Include six scrapbooks compiled by Tappan containing clipping, resolutions, pious resolutions and manuscript notes by Tappan, relating to slavery and the Anti-Slavery Movement.
- Series B Printed Material
- Box 101-2 Admittance passes to anti-slavery meetings and a religious verse.
- Series C Documents

Box 101-2 Manuscript and official documents.

Series D Artifact

Box 101-2 Multi-colored samples of slave grown cotton.

Series E Catalogues

Box 101-3 Two catalogues of anti-slavery books and pamphlets.

Series F Manuscript

Box 101-3 A manuscript pertaining to the British West India Colonies including tables on the import and export business from 1829 to 1840.

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### Container List

#### A Scrapbooks

Box 101-1 Folder 1 Resolutions (newsclippings)  
2 Slavery (primarily newsclippings)  
3 Slavery (newsclippings)

Box 101-2 4 The Pittsburg Convention  
5 Slavery (primarily newsclippings)  
6 Anti-slavery (notes & clippings)

#### B Printed Material

7 Admittance passes (4)  
8 Verses (3)

#### C Documents

9 Document respecting the Articles Communicated by Mr. Tappan  
10 Document - friendly address from the undersigned inhabitants of London

#### D Artifact

11 Slave grown cotton and  
envelope

E Catalogues

Box 101-3

12 Lewis Tappan Anti-Slavery  
library catalogue

13 Catalogue of Anti-Slavery  
books and pamphlets - 1851

F Manuscript

14 Manuscript re.: British  
West India Colonies

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