

Memoranda of an Anti-Slavery
Movement in Leicester.

Sunday, 11 Feb. 1844. The following Notice was given in ^{all} ~~the~~ different places of Meeting in S. Town.
"All persons in S. Town who wish and mean to be active opponents of Slavery, are requested to meet at the Town Hall on Friday Evening next, at 7 o'clock, punctually, to take measures to secure greater harmony & energy of action amongst us on this subject."

Friday evening, Feb. 16. Meeting held. About 30 men present, an 8 or 10 women!! N.B. Not generally understood that women were invited. From Clayville, was A. Fitt jr. From Ch. Valley, Saml. Watson, Jason Wood, Syces, Rufus Rockwood. From Village, S. May, J. Nelson, J. L. Partridge, J. Clarke jr, L. Haven, J. Clapp, W. B. Olds, L. B. Jones, S. Gleason, S. Daines, M. W. Maynard, S. W. Kent, Jos. A. Denny, N. Ainsworth, G. B. Upham.

Also, ^{Mr. D. Earle, Daniel Clapp, — Mr. Clapp & Miss Spear,}
^{Mr. J. D. Sargent, Miss R. M. Upham, Mr. S. May, Mr. A. Fitt jr., Mr. Fitt jr.}
^{present.} Voted, To choose a Committee of Nine to draft a Constitution of a Society. Chose, J. Nelson, J. Clarke jr, S. May, J. A. Denny, A. Fitt jr. W. B. Olds, W. B. Earle, S. W. Kent, Saml. Watson.

adjourned to Wednesday 28th Feb.

Monday Evng. Feb. 19. Above named Committee met at house of Jos. A. Denny. Present, all. A Constitution, ^{for an Association} reported by A. Fitt jr., with some slight Modifications, was agreed upon

at r. Committee's Report to the Adjourned Meeting.
Mr. Nelson was desirous of something sh^d. be inserted, laying some limitation on subjects to be brought before r. Association. But this was not agreed to. Not another person spoke in favor of it.
A discussion between Mr. Nelson & myself on r. subject of the Rights of Women ^{in public} Meetings took place.

Wed. evng. 28 Feb. Though a heavy fall of snow had come, blocking up w. road ^{very badly}, a considerable number assembled to hear r. Committee's Report. We remained together till the past 8 o'clk, when, Mr. Firth not arriving (he had the Comtee's Report in his possession) the meeting was adjourned to Monday evng March 11th.
While together, there was an informal discussion, chiefly touching the 'Church & Clergy' aspect of r. question. Mr. Colburn thought that Antislavery had nothing to do with r. "Church and Clergy."

Mon. March 11. Committee reported. Report accepted. Committee, appointed to get signatures to r. Constitution, adjourned, a fortnight.

Mon. evng. March 25. Chose Officers. S. May, Pres^r. J. Nelson, W. B. Olds, V. Pres^r. A. Firth jr. Sec. J. Clark Jr. Treas. Also, a Form Antislavery Committee of 20, composed of men & women.

Mon. Evg. March April 1., and Mon. Evenig.
April 8., the Texas question was debated,
and well debated too. At the conclusion, a
unanimous vote was passed That in the
event of the Annexation of Texas to the U.S.
it wd be the duty of the Free States to separate
themselves from all connexion with the
Slave States.

Mon. Evg. Apr. 15. Discussed, at Cherry Valley
of question "Can an Antislavery Man consist-
ently vote for a Slaveholder."
Yea: J. Clarke jr.
Nay: S. May. - G. B. Upham. - W. Rockwood

Mon. Evg. Apr. 29. Same question, Town Hall.
Yea. L. Haven, J. Clarke jr., H. G. Henshaw.
Nay: A. Fifth jr, G. B. Upham, Mayo, D. Clapp

P.S. This question was subsequently discussed at
Clappville. Yea. L. H. Moore.

Nay: W. B. Old, S. May. A. Fifth jr.

Again, it was discussed at Clappville (J. May present.)

June - Same question, Town Hall 2 successive evg.

Affirmative, J. Clark jr.

Negative, W. B. Earle, S. May, S. W. Colburn, Davt Clapp

A. Fifth jr.

Final vote - 12 Yeas }
10 Nays. }

So the "Leicester Antislavery Association"
decided that it was consistent for an
Antislavery Man to vote for a Slaveholder!

In August, September, and 1st Monday in
October, a discussion took place on the
question, "Ought of Free States to demand such
amendments of U. Constⁿ; as shall free them
from all ~~particular~~ obligation to sustain Slavery?"
- Position taken by S. M. "No Union with Slaveholders."
Mr. Nelson dissented from this position.

Vote taken - Decided affirmatively, nem. con.







