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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA

FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

1852

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1852.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

*Annual*

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*Anti-slavery col.*  
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## REPORT.

The inevitable destiny of every true Moral Reform, is to encounter strong opposition. The energy of this opposition is proportioned to the energy with which the Reform is attempted, and to the national attachment to the evil or sin which it is proposed to modify or destroy. The form in which this opposition is manifested, is determined by the character of the age and nation. The rude people of a barbarous age thrust their reformers into the gladiatorial arena, to contend with wild beasts not more savage and cruel than themselves; or consign them to the stake or the cross, as the most summary disposal of their arguments and expostulations. As the world advances, these exhibitions of bodily torture become offensive to more refined tastes and delicate nerves, and they gradually disappear. Faint and indistinct conceptions of man's natural rights, dawn on the mind, governments become less despotic, until, at last, the right of free thought and free speech is openly acknowledged. Then the opposition of conservatism to progress takes a new form, in accordance with the improving spirit and manners of the age. But it changes only its form; and, in its new manifestation, proves again, as it has proved to each successive generation, the truth

of the assertion that "he that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." In all the changing forms of this persecution, in all ages and nations, from the rudest and most barbaric to the most refined and enlightened, it has ever been the aim of the opposers of the Right to bring to their aid, the Law and the Religion of their land. Man's native regard for established law, and the strength of the religious principle within him, make these most effective weapons in the hands of a skilful leader of any party, if he can obtain the use of them; for the world's history has fully proved that the human mind has been slow to learn the distinction between LAW, and immoral, and consequently illegal, statutes, and between a pure and a corrupt Religion.

That the Anti-Slavery Reform, in the United States, in the nineteenth century, should escape the ordeal through which all other true Reforms had passed, the baptism which should prove it to be of heaven, was not expected by its pioneers. They knew that they were leading it forth to stern conflict with the tyranny and despotism of the age. They knew not how fierce, how dire, how long, that conflict might be, but they were sure of ultimate and complete victory. Their experience has been written in the history of their predecessors in various ages of the world. The law and religion of their country has been arrayed against them, perverted and corrupted, even to blasphemy, to serve the purposes of their opponents; they looked for judgment, and beheld oppression; for righteousness, and heard the cry of innocent blood. They met opposition where they expected sympathy and aid. Yet, every year, since the commencement of their

enterprise, has brought them most convincing proofs that their labors were not in vain, most welcome earnestness of ultimate success. The annual record of a portion of these labors and their results, found in the Reports of Anti-Slavery Associations, show this with sufficient clearness to inspire gratitude for the past, and hope for the future.

In a review of the labors of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, during the past year, it is impossible to separate them entirely from those of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, of which it is a part. In those departments of effort peculiarly our own, and in those in which we have labored in connection with the State Society, our experience during the year has been such as to inspire us with hope and courage. The signs of the times, as we read them, are full of promise.

During the last year, our Society has devoted a portion of its funds to the publication of anti-slavery articles in one of our daily papers, hoping in that way to reach a class of the community who do not read anti-slavery journals. We regret the fact that among the numerous daily papers of our city, there has not been one which would open its columns to a free discussion of this subject, and that we can obtain the publication of the articles referred to, only as advertisements. We are happy to be able to state in this connection, that the Daily Register, a paper known to the mercantile portion of Philadelphia, and hitherto possessing only a commercial character, has recently come before the public under new auspices, and with a new editor, (Mr. Wm. H. Birney,) and promises to speak on this subject in a freer and

... than that heretofore used by our daily press. We trust, for the honor of Philadelphia, and for the sake of the cause of freedom of speech, that this pledge will be nobly redeemed.

Our annual subscription to the Liberator, National A. S. Standard, Pennsylvania Freeman, and Anti-Slavery Bugle, has been continued.

At the last session of our Legislature, a vigorous effort was made, by a portion of the Democratic party of this State, to obtain a repeal of the law passed in 1847, commonly known as the Anti-Kidnapping Act. Our Society sent a Memorial to both Houses, praying that the Act might not be repealed; and most energetic efforts were made by the friends of the slave in Pennsylvania, to preserve this one safeguard of liberty on our soil. The machinations of the enemies of freedom were defeated, and the Act still remains on our Statute Book, with the exception of the sixth, and least important, section.

Our Annual Fair, which is, every year, increasing in importance, was, last year, successful beyond our expectations. The receipts, and also the net profits, exceed those of any of our previous Fairs. The Committee of Arrangements, and their coadjutors, entered upon the work of preparation with great zeal and diligence, and the gratifying results have amply recompensed them for their toils. The Treasury of our Society is supplied chiefly, as our Treasurer's Report will show, by the profits of our Fair. That Report will, also, show that a very large portion of our funds are placed at the disposal of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. For several years past we have found this to be the most efficient mode in

which we could use them for the promotion of our cause. Our society is represented by five members in the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Society. To the results of the labors of that Society, must we look for the results of our own.

During the past year we have opened a correspondence with the Bristol and Clifton Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, and our hearts have been cheered by the faithful and uncompromising course which these devoted friends of the slave, in a foreign land, are pursuing, amidst obloquy and opposition. This Society, which was organized in 1840, as an auxiliary to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, has, for a few years past, been industriously engaged in collecting information respecting the Anti-Slavery enterprise in America, and in rigidly examining the claims and character of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society. In these efforts they were indefatigable, and the result was a full conviction "that the general course of the British and Foreign A. S. Society has been one of unfaithfulness to the interests of three millions of slaves in the United States of America;" and that the American Anti-Slavery Society has imperative claims upon their sympathy and co-operation. Consequently, they renounced their auxiliaryship to the British and Foreign Society, and constituted themselves an independent Anti-Slavery organization. Since that period, they have been most faithfully working in behalf of the American slave, and have chosen a very important department of labor, that of diffusing, throughout Great Britain, correct information respecting the American Anti-Slavery enterprise, which it has been the aim of the British and

Foreign A. S. Society, and its organ, the Reporter, studiously to withhold from the British public. Assuming such a position, the Bristol and Clifton Society could not fail to arouse similar opposition to that which the American Anti-Slavery enterprise has ever met from its open enemies and pretended friends. Of the imperative sense of duty which overcame their reluctance to assume such a position, they thus speak, in their official Report :

“ The task cannot fail to be an unwelcome one; which brings us into collision where we had hoped for cordial co-operation; which awakens distrust where we had reposed implicit confidence, which compels us to admit the possibility of apparent zeal for the truth we hold most precious, serving as a shield for departures from the path of duty, or even as an impediment to the cause it professes to serve. Our responsibility has not been hastily assumed; neither will it be lightly relinquished. As long as truth is suppressed, and error circulated, and the often refuted calumnies which for ten years chilled our sympathies and bound our hands, are used to foster prejudices in other minds, and to deprive the American abolitionists of British aid, no alternative is left us (unless we abandon the cause) but to remove this ‘veil of separation,’ as the indispensable preliminary to any extension or practical direction of anti-slavery zeal. Those who have rendered such a work necessary must be answerable for robbing the slave of the more direct efforts which might otherwise have been put forth in his service.”

“ The apostolic injunction to be ‘first pure, then peaceable,’ forbids our compromising the principles of truth and justice for the sake of peace. Nor can we consent to sacrifice the slave’s peace, to preserve peace for ourselves.”

“ Ours is an Anti-Slavery Society; and in the first peace we enjoy, the suffering bondsman must have an equal share.”

We hail these events as auspicious to the anti-slavery cause, and rejoice in the sympathy and co-operation of these uncompromising friends of freedom. In expression of this feeling, our Society, at its stated meeting, in October last, unanimously adopted the following resolution :



*Resolved*, That we have heard, with great pleasure, of the course pursued by the Bristol and Clifton Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, in their untiring efforts to acquaint themselves with the character of the anti-slavery enterprise in America; and in their secession from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, on account of its unfaithfulness to the cause of the slave; and that we tender to them our heartfelt sympathy in their struggles, and our warmest thanks for their active co-operation with the American Anti-Slavery Society and its auxiliaries.

In the establishment of a new anti-slavery paper, in London, which will, doubtless, be, in truth, what its name imports, an *Anti-Slavery Advocate*, we see another cheering indication of renewed zeal and increasing clearness of vision, on the part of British abolitionists.

During the whole of the last year, we have been deprived of the counsels and labors of one of our most efficient coadjutors, who, for several years past, has very acceptably filled the office of President of our Society. While her temporary absence has taught us even a higher appreciation of her presence with us, we are reconciled to it by the knowledge that she is performing valuable service for our cause, in another part of the anti-slavery field, by the efficient aid which she is rendering to the Bristol and Clifton Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, and to other true-hearted abolitionists of England.

In our review of the year, our souls are cheered and strengthened by many decided indications of great progress made by our enterprise. A single event is often the result, often the ample recompense, of months or years of arduous toil; and none can say, of any portion of that toil, that it was in vain, or that, in that long chain of causes and effects, its omission might not have proved fatal to the final result.

Myriads of invisible and impalpable influences are at work in the formation of that public sentiment which is destined to abolish American slavery, and only an omniscient eye can accurately measure the relative importance of each and all. Slowly, but very surely, since the commencement of the anti-slavery enterprise, have been working those many influences which at last produced, in this nation, a public sentiment which hailed Uncle Tom's Cabin with acclamations of welcome. The wonderful history of this already world-renowned book, is not less instructive than interesting to abolitionists. In it they see another verification of the promise upon which, in the day of small things, they relied: "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days." A book which, had it issued from the press fifteen years ago, with all its glowing imagery, its dramatic power, its thrilling, truthful, narrative, and its exquisite pathos, might have awakened no response in the heart of a nation slumbering in a death-like lethargy, now comes to that nation awakened by the unceasing efforts of years, and does its sure and certain work upon its heart. We hail its advent gratefully, rejoicing in it, as a potent instrumentality in the cause of freedom, and as a sign of the times. It has touched secret springs in many a soul, and brought to light sweet sympathies for the slave, and strong indignation against tyranny, which lay fast bound and stifled by the oppressive weight of false customs and a corrupt religion. The confusion and wrath which it has excited in the camp of our enemies prove that it is an effective and formidable weapon against their cherished system. In addition to the crown of laurel!

and the golden honors, with which the world rewards its favorite poets, dramatists and novelists, the songs of millions ready to perish shall be her guardian who chose the cabin of the lowly, and the sufferings and wrongs of the slave, to be the themes of her eloquent pen.

But while we gladly render this just tribute to Uncle Tom's Cabin and its author, we cannot forbear the expression of our deep regret that any portion of the book should seem to countenance the schemes of the American Colonization Society. That the author has no sympathy with the unchristian and inhuman *animus* of that scheme, is plainly evident, and it is, therefore, more lamentable that she has given the advocates of that cruel persecution any encouragement to number her among its apologists.

Among the events of the year 1852, to be remembered with pleasure, is the release from prison of those well known confessors for principle, Drayton and Sayres. After a confinement of more than four years, in a prison in the capital of this "free nation," for the crime of aiding innocent men to escape from their enslavers, they were pardoned and set at liberty, by President Fillmore. The untiring efforts of many friends of freedom, whose names are too numerous for record here, were sufficient for this result, but not sufficient to remove the guilt and disgrace which their imprisonment attached to our national character.

The release of Rachel and Elizabeth Parker, two freeborn girls, who were kidnaped in Chester county, one on December 31st, 1851, the other, previously, and who have been for some time past awaiting their

in Baltimore, for forty of years, and of their  
 distress. The experience of that long year of an-  
 guish, suspense and trial, cannot be fully conceived  
 by those who have not lived it, but its story might  
 move the hardest hearts to pity. Both these girls  
 were carried by their kidnappers to Baltimore. In  
 the case of Rachel Parker's abduction, friends imme-  
 diately followed, in hope of rescuing the innocent  
 victim. She was found in one of the slave-pens of  
 that city, and legal proceedings were instituted in  
 her behalf. Not until a few weeks since have these  
 proceedings terminated; and during the long interval  
 has she been subjected to the torture of hope de-  
 ferred, alternating with despair. In the meantime it  
 was discovered that her sister Elizabeth Parker had  
 been sent by a Baltimore slave trader to New Orleans,  
 and there sold. By the efforts of the friends of free-  
 dom in Baltimore, she was brought back to that city,  
 to await the result of a legal trial for her freedom.  
 These two sisters, thus parted, met in circumstances  
 so highly tragic, so deeply pathetic, that, were they  
 the theme of a romance, they would thrill the soul  
 of every reader. They met to share one fate, the  
 result of one trial, on which hung all their hopes for  
 life. The sentence of the Court, which together  
 they awaited, would give them back to life, and all  
 the blessedness of life; or it would doom them to the  
 loss of all that is sacred to womanhood, and precious  
 to the human soul, which man can wrest from his  
 fellow being. Their long suspense ended in joy.  
 They were proved to be free by evidence so over-  
 whelming, that none but a perjured jury could have  
 found a verdict against them.

Gratifying as has been the result of this case, there were circumstances attending it, and events connected with it, which Pennsylvania has reason to remember with shame and indignation. One of her own citizens, Joseph C. Miller, a respectable farmer in Chester County, who had hastened to Baltimore to protect the unfortunate Rachel Parker, and who would have been an important witness against the kidnappers, was murdered on the soil of Maryland, within a day or two after the kidnapping had taken place. No effort has been made by the government of Maryland to bring his murderers to the retributions of justice; yet Pennsylvania is unmoved by this insult and outrage. Equally undisturbed is she by the disgraceful sycophancy to the slave power, manifested by her representatives before the Maryland Court, in the case of Rachel and Elizabeth Parker.

An improved state of public sentiment, in one section of our country, at least, is indicated by the election to Congress of that well known philanthropist, Gerrit Smith. As such, we rejoice in the event, as we do in any reformatory step taken by any political party, while to none of those parties do we look for our country's salvation. Too clearly have they all demonstrated their incompetency to achieve a great moral reform. The experience of every year confirms our faith in the divine efficacy of moral weapons in a conflict between Truth and Error, Right and Wrong. The reformer who, in eradicating one national evil, would not plant the seeds of another, to germinate and grow in their turn, must be careful of the means by which he accomplishes his end. He

and compromise with any principle of Right, however much he might seem to gain, for the present, thereby; for in whatever guise of harmless friendship such compromise may present itself to him, it will, assuredly, soon appear in its true form, as the enemy of God and man. By the faithful preaching of the truth, in word and in life, must the moral reformer triumph. His warfare is not of this world, neither are his weapons. As Abolitionists, who seek thus to abolish slavery, we are bound to strive earnestly to withdraw ourselves from all partnership with slaveholders, religiously, politically and commercially; that we may not encourage them in their sin, and thus be partakers of it, either by acknowledging them to be members of the Christian Church, by promising allegiance to their pro-slavery constitutions and laws, or by purchasing the blood-stained fruits of their oppression.

We must record the results of another judicial trial, connected with the subject of slavery, which is far from being a cheering sign of the times, and is eminently disgraceful to Pennsylvania. In October and November last, a suit, brought by certain Maryland slaveholders, against Daniel Kauffman, Stephen C. Weakly and Philip Brechbill of Cumberland Co., for the value of twelve fugitive slaves, was tried in the U. S. Court in this city, before Judge Grier. These slaves escaped from slavery, in 1847, and the defendants were charged with having harbored and assisted them. On this trial, Weakly and Brechbill were acquitted, and Kauffman convicted and fined \$2,800. During the sixty hours, in which the jury were endeavoring to make up their verdict, they re-

turned, again and again, to the Court, begging, and they could not agree, and requesting to be discharged. Judge Crier declared that he would keep them in confinement a week, unless they agreed upon a verdict. Five of the jurymen maintained that no offense had been proved against either of the defendants. But the weariness of confinement exhausted their moral strength, and they at last consented to declare Kauffman guilty. Of their delinquency in duty; of the discreditable and partizan conduct of the Judge on the Bench, posterity will judge impartially. Of the claim to the Christian name, by a nation which makes such deeds offenses against its laws, the world is judging now.

Within a few days past, an outrage has occurred in our city, which shows the insecurity of freedom even for the nominally free. Richard Neal, a freeman, long resident in this city, was seized at midday and hurried away, before his friends had time even to give the alarm. Happily, his abductors were quickly pursued, and at the town of Chester, on their route to Baltimore, their progress was stopped. But it was only by the most prompt and indefatigable exertions that he was saved, and brought back to his home and such freedom as our laws afford to colored men. We will point to Richard Neal when we are asked what we have to do with slavery.

Our last Annual Report speaks of the visit of the illustrious Kossuth, to this nation, and expresses a hope that, ere his departure, he would, by some word of faithful remonstrance against American Slavery, prove his love of universal Liberty. That hope was disappointed. Like other great patriots who love

liberty for themselves and their own people, he forgot, or seemed to forget, the presence of three millions of slaves in America; and sought to win the nation's favor and aid by the language of fulsome flattery, with which was mingled no word of burning indignation against its own oppression, or of mild entreaty in behalf of its own victims. Yet we believe that, as the representative of oppressed Hungary, and the advocate of Hungarian freedom, the influence of his visit to this country was favorable to the anti-slavery cause.

In addressing ourselves to the labors of another year, we are deeply impressed with the importance of diligence and perseverance to the successful accomplishment of our work. The zeal of the neophyte may begin the most arduous achievement; the patient industry and unfailing strength of the long-tried believer must finish it. Our enterprise is not the work of a day or a year; it was for life that we enlisted under its banner; it is to active and self-denying toil that we are pledged. We cannot rest until the slave's chain is broken, and our land redeemed from its greatest curse. The measures which we have, hitherto, found effective, we shall continue to use, despising not the smallest efforts, and careful to lose not the least opportunity for the promotion of our cause; and hoping confidently for abundant, if not immediate, returns for our labor. We know not what may be the fruitage of the most unpromising soil, nor in what new forms of budding greenness, or wide-spreading foliage, the little seed, dropped by the wayside, may develop itself, long after the foot of the sower has passed by. It is ours to plant and



water the seeds of truth, patiently waiting for the increase.

The year which has just closed upon us will be remembered as one in which a veteran soldier in the hosts of freedom put off his long-worn armor, and went to his rest. Among the many tried and true spirits, at all times to be found in those ranks, there have been few whose loyalty to the cause of Freedom has been better proved than that of the well-known friend of the slave, Isaac T. Hopper. An example of a long life of self-sacrificing devotion to that cause, is the inheritance which he has left to us his successors.

Contemplating the past with gratitude, and the future with faith and hope, we commence a new year, confident that we shall not labor in vain, nor spend our strength for nought; that, before the influence of truth and righteousness, error and sin are destined to pass away, and the true brotherhood of Man to be universally felt and acknowledged.

## THE FAIR COMMITTEE.

The Committee of Arrangements for the Fair respectfully report:

That the Seventeenth Annual Anti-Slavery Fair, of Pennsylvania, was held in the Grand Saloon of the Assembly Buildings, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th days of December, 1852. The spacious edifice in which, during many years, we have held our Fairs, and from which we were necessarily excluded last year, being rebuilt, we gladly returned to its beautiful Saloons. Our Fair was a highly successful one, affording great encouragement for future efforts. As in previous years, the Saloon was crowded with visitors, and the tables thronged with purchasers. On the third evening an excellent Address was delivered to the Assembly, by WILLIAM H. FURNESS. It was heard with profound attention and great pleasure, and added much to the attractions of the Fair.

To many generous donors, and diligent co-workers, are we indebted for aid. Among the former, we gratefully record the name of JOSHUA L. HALLOWELL, whose liberal gifts furnished one of the most attractive tables of the Fair.

Bristol, Bart, Byberry, Makefield and Chester County were represented by their respective Tables;

and donations were received from Boston, Pawtucket, Plainfield, (Conn.), New London, Wilmington, Salem, Mullica Hill, Camden, Chester, Norristown, Wrightstown, Plainfield (Pa.), Isabella Furnace, Warwick, Milton and Media; and from Birmingham, Bristol and Clifton, England.

The numerous articles thus collected by the liberality and industry of many workers for our cause, were tastefully displayed upon Tables surmounted with light and graceful Iron Arches covered with Evergreens. For this new ornament of the Fair, we are indebted to our friend and coadjutor, ISAAC WINSLOW.

The Receipts of the Fair were	\$1,816 60
Expenses	415 55
	<hr/>
Net Profits,	\$1,401 05
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The Committee recommend that prompt and energetic arrangements be made for the next Fair, feeling assured that they will result in the most gratifying success.

On behalf of the Committee,  
MARY GREW, CH<sup>n</sup>.

*Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in account with  
Anna M. Hopper, Treasurer.*

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1852.			
1st. Mo.	Balance in Treasury		\$ 47 65
	Proceeds of Fair of 1851,		1359 90
	" Donations,		3 00
1853	" Annual Subscriptions,		90 00
2d. Mo.	" Proceeds of Fair 1852,		1401 05
			\$2901 60

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1852.	By Donation to P. A. S. Society,	\$ 1000 00
	" " American A. S. Society,	100 00
	" Subscription to Freeman, 30 copies	80 00
	" " Liberator 10 "	25 00
	" " Standard, 10 "	20 00
	" " Bugle, 10 "	15 00
	" Rent of Hall for Annual Meeting,	1 00
	" Bill for printing Annual Report	15 00
	" " articles published in Public Ledger	13 75
	" Goods purchased, and duties paid on foreign importations for the Fair,	24 97
1853.	" Donation to Penn. A. S. Society,	1200 00
	" Balance in Treasury,	346 88
		\$2901 60

SARAH A. Mc KIM, Auditor.