



the Society were found to have been assigned by the Executive Committee to Lewis Tappan and S. W. Benedict, to pay debts of the Society, and to indemnify them against liabilities on account of a libel suit, and of the Amistad case. Under this assignment a portion of the books had been sold at *half the trade price*, itself greatly below the retail price, (at which this Society would have sold them all,) to raise money to pay the arrears of Mr. Stanton's salary and for other purposes. Thus we are at last taught how money *can* be raised on anti-slavery books!

The Anti-Slavery office had also been broken up, and all the Society's late property removed to the Anti-Slavery Depository, now the office of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society. We are therefore without such means for immediately prosecuting the anti-slavery enterprise. We look upon this transaction as hasty and unreasonable. Had the question been submitted to the Society then about to assemble, can there be a doubt that they would have paid double the amount due to creditors, rather than have suffered their entire stock to be sacrificed? Can there be a doubt even, that they would have honorably discharged every just debt, stock or no stock? Have they ever done any thing to invalidate this presumption? It is true that at the instance of one member, a provision was inserted in the assignment that any surplus, after paying debts and indemnities, should be returned to the society.

To suppose that the Executive Committee really doubted that the American Anti-Slavery Society was able and would be willing to meet every just claim in an honorable manner, would be scarcely less than ludicrous. They might not do it with mercantile punctuality, but they knew that it would ultimately be done; no benevolent society ever met its payments with strict legal exactness. It is impossible in the nature of the case; because their resources depend on so many contributors; but is it not a most obvious remark, and applicable to the case of the Massachusetts pledge, that the same benevolent disposition which induces the original incurring of the obligation will induce its fulfilment, if fulfilment be possible? Have we not seen the A. B. C. F. M. shortening its remittances to all its stations? But was it negligence, or bad faith in them? By no means.

We now dismiss the matters connected with the late defection from this Society. It remains to say a word of the effect of this event upon the anti-slavery cause.

We have been pained by it, but we are not discouraged in the slightest degree. On the contrary, we feel that our moral force is augmented by our numerical loss. The alternative presented to us was to retain the disaffected, or to retain the distinctive principles of an Anti Slavery Society. That the body of abolitionists had virtue and firmness enough to adhere to principles rather than to men, however heretofore prized, is itself the best of omens for our cause. A severer trial is scarcely to be expected. At the result we feel strengthened, animated, dis-embarrassed.

We have made the foregoing exposition, not for the purpose of reply to those who, professing to hope for peace and to hate crimination, attempt to give a mortal wound in nearly every sentence they have put forth on the subjects of this address. 'And Joab said unto Amasa, 'Art thou in health, my brother?' And Joab took Amasa by the beard, with his right hand, to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword in Joab's hand; so he smote him in the fifth rib.' We have made this development by order of the Society, to the end, that abolitionists of this and of coming time, may understand the true causes of the alienation which has been consummated by the act of forming a new organization at New-York. We have made it principally to answer that demand of the true-hearted host, 'Watchman, what of the night?' We rejoice to respond in cheerful tones, 'The morning cometh.'

JAMES S. GIBBONS, *Chairman.*

J. C. JACKSON, *Secretary.*