### SLAVERY—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

### MEMORIAL

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## INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Praying for the gradual abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

### MARCH 24, 1828.

Referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

FEBRUARY 9, 1835.

Ordered, On motion of Mr. Hubbard, of New Hampshire, to be printed, with the names thereto attached.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

We, the undersigned, citizens of the counties of Washington and Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, beg leave to call the attention of your honorable body to an evil of serious magnitude, which greatly impairs the prosperity and happiness of this District, and casts the reproach of inconsistency upon the free institutions established among us.

While the laws of the United States denounce the foreign slave trade as piracy, and punish with death those who are found engaged in its perpetration, there exists in this District, the seat of the National Government, a domestic slave trade, scarcely less disgraceful in its character, and even more demoralizing in its influence. For this is not, like the former, carried on against a barbarous nation; its victims are reared up among the people of this country, educated in the precepts of the same religion, and imbued with similar domestic attachments.

These people are, without their consent, torn from their homes; husband and wife are frequently separated and sold into distant parts; children are taken from their parents, without regard to the ties of nature; and the most endearing bonds of affection are broken forever.

Nor is this traffic confined to those who are legally siaves for life. Some who are entitled to freedom, and many who have a limited time to serve, are sold into unconditional slavery; and, owing to the defectiveness of our laws, they are generally carried out of the District before the necessary steps can be taken for their release.

[Gales & Seaton, print.]

We behold these scenes continually taking place among us, and lament our inability to prevent them. The people of this District have, within themselves, no means of legislative redress; and we therefore appeal to your honorable body, as the only one invested by the American constitution with the power to relieve us.

Nor is it only from the rapacity of slave traders that the colored race in this District are doomed to suffer. Even the laws which govern us, sanction and direct, in certain cases, a procedure that we believe is unparalleled, in glaring injustice, by any thing at present known among the Governments of Christendom. An instance of the operation of these laws,

which occurred during the last summer, we will briefly relate.

A colored man, who stated that he was entitled to freedom, was taken up as a runaway slave, and lodged in the jail of Washington city. He was advertised, but no one appearing to claim him, he was, according to law, put up at public auction for the payment of his jail fees, and sold as a slave for life! He was purchased by a slave trader, who was not required to give security for his remaining in the District, and he was, soon after, shipped at Alexandria for one of the southern States. An attempt was made by some benevolent individuals to have the sale postponed until his claim to freedom could be investigated; but their efforts were unavailing; and thus was a human being sold into perpetual bondage at the capital of the freest Government on earth, without even a pretence of trial, or an allegation of crime.

We blush for our country while we relate this disgraceful transaction, and we would fain conceal it from the world, did not its very enormity inspire us with the hope that it will rouse the philanthropist and the patriot to exertion. We have no hesitation in believing your honorable body never intended that this odious law should be enforced; it was adopted with the old code of Maryland, from which, we believe, it has been expunged since this District was ceded to the General Government.

The fact of its having been so recently executed, shows the necessity of this subject being investigated by a power which we confidently hope will

be ready to correct it.

We are aware of the difficulties that would attend any attempt to relieve us from these grievances by a sudden emancipation of the slaves in this District, and we would, therefore, be far from recommending so rash a measure. But the course pursued by many of the States of this confederacy, that have happily succeeded in relieving themselves from a similar burden, together with the bright example which has been set us by the South American republics, proves, most conclusively, that a course of gradual emancipation, to commence at some fixed period, and to take effect only upon those who may thereafter be born or removed into the District, might be pursued without detriment to the present proprietors, and would greatly redound to the prosperity and honor of our country.

The existence among us of a distinct class of people who, by their condition as slaves, are deprived of almost every incentive to virtue and industry, and shut out from many of the sources of light and knowledge, has an evident tendency to corrupt the morals of the people, and to damp the spirit of enterprise, by accustoming the rising generation to look with contempt upon honest labor, and to depend for support too much upon the labor of others. It prevents a useful and industrious class of people from

settling among us, by rendering the means of subsistence more precarious to the laboring class of whites.

It diminishes the resources of the community, by throwing the earnings of the poor into the coffers of the rich; thus rendering the former dependent, servile and improvident; while the latter are tempted to become, in the same proportion, luxurious and prodigal.

That these disastrous results flow from the existence of slavery among us is sufficiently conspicuous, when we contrast the languishing condition of this District, and the surrounding country, with the prosperity of those parts of the Union which are less favored in point of climate and location, but blessed with a free and industrious population.

We would, therefore, respectfully pray that these grievances may claim the attention of your honorable body, and that a law of Congress may be enacted, declaring that all children of slaves, born in the District of Columbia after the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and twenty-eight, shall be free at the age of twenty-five years; and that those laws, which authorize the selling of supposed runaways for their prison fees or maintenance, may be repealed.

And, also, that laws may be enacted to prevent slaves from being removed into this District, or brought in for sale, hire, or transportation; without, however, preventing members of Congress, resident strangers, or travellers, from bringing and taking away with them their domestic servants.

Jonathan Elliot Henry Burdica B. Thruston W. Cranch Thos. L. Thruston Samuel Bacon Charles Bell John Ellis James H. Lowry Henry Prather Robert Beal M. Shaut Ezekiel Young A. H. Young John Scrivener John Boyle Wm. Ford John Este Christian Buckley Ralph Charlton B. Chambers George Savage Charles Huntt Jacob Leonard Nathaniel Muilikin James Galt D. M. Wilson J. Gideon, jun.

R. G. Lanphier Richard Wright W. Gunton R. Kirkwood Samuel Chester E. Arnold P. Mauro Richard Phillips Wm. G. W. White Walter Clarke John Dix G. C. Grammer George W. Spangler Thomas Pursell J. D. Boteler W. M. Morrison I. L. Skinner D. A. Hall M. Rearden E. Jones Wm. Dougherty Richard Ballard George M. Tubman George Parker A. B. Waller Atcheson Thompson John Thompson John Green

Thomas Donoho J. Harbaugh Solomon Hubbard Robert McCulloch Wm. Thumlert Wm. Ward John Stettinius W. Harper Charles B. Davis Stephen Y. Leyland J. C. Dawes Samuel Clark Samuel Wells Jonas Newell John Waters  ${f L}$ uke  ${f R}$ ichardson N. W. Fales Wm. Owner W. H. Mauro N. B. Keen Enoch Tucker C P. Franklin R. w. Hornor Thomas C. Wells John H. Gibbs James Riordan John Smith Ch. W. Goldsborough

Alex. McIntire James H. Handy Saml. Harkness Josias Taylor Jno. N. Moulder Jno. Barcroft Wm. O'Neale Christian Hines John Smith John Rawling, jr. Jas. Godfrey Andrew Hoover B. W. Maul Patk. Leyne Saml. Redfern Samuel Brooks Samuel Stott Thomas Wetherald Wm. Coolidge, jr. Thomas Lundy Thomas Thistlethwaite Wm. Mackey Thos. Smith Saml. Smoot John Cook David Hines Saml. Hines David Davis James Williams Jno. Williams George Thompson E. Washington Oliver G. T. Rhodes Leonard Ashton Richd. Wills George Lamb. Wm. Langton James Carriet George Parker Wm. Kecf Frederick Hines Robt. McCoy Tho. J. Dallam James C. Haughey Wm. Mechlin John D. Cox Thomas Edwards Lewis Dean Charles Calvert John Kavanaugh John Street R. S. Briscoe The. Fillebrown, jr.

James Gaither Thos. Wilson J. Mechlin James Druef Jos. Shaw L. Kervand Charles Little John Usher C. W. Patterson W. P. McKelden Reuben Collin N. Brashears John C. Remmele Geo. W. Dashiell Th. B. Dashiell Jas. Moore, pr. J. W. M. Cobb James McClery John B. Patterson Alex'r McDonald James D. Woodside Edgar Patterson George Beal William Coltman James Nowlan • Fred. Turton Thos. Barclay Thos. Gardner Joseph Cooper James Graves James M. Rardom Louis Graves Samuel Drury, jr. Obediah Moss William McCoy John Dewdney J. H. B. Lee Jo. L. Kecher Levi Washburn Robt. Ellis H. Brodbeck James Frere R. T. Queen B. L. Beall John Brannan Wm. S. Allison Daniel Brown Thos. Arbuckle John C. Harkness John W. Cannon Warren Carpenter

Jacob Kleiber John Weaver John Thompson John Hanly John Sibley Coye Anderson Philip Boyle John Miller Valentine Pierce Wm. Maul ·Alexander Borland Louis S. Tchiffely John Burke Jacob Hines Elijah Ourand Bernard Herty Nathaniel C. Pugh Jacob C. Tull Nathaniel T. Davis Charles Irwin George H. Fulmer Abijah Swallow John N. Lovejoy , sen. William R. Campbell John C. Gabler Andrew Stinger John Stinger Matthias Stinger John Tobin John Knoblock John F. Stinger F. Stinger B. Williamson  ${f T}$ hompson  ${f S}$ hard Thomas Herbert Ignatius Free John Cumberland Wm. Girdinston James Murry William Didenhover Isaac Draper Robert L. Didenhover Thomas Hunter Henry Hines Thomas T. Parker Avery E. Smoot Charles Dean T. E. Scott R. Woodward Geo. A. Adams John Connor Joel Cruttenden

Samuel McKenney W. Redin Thos. C. Wright John White Thos. Hoskinson Richard Cropley Charles E. Eckel W. Noyes Jos. Brooks Henry Addison Fra. Knott James Thomas Sedly Woodward Charles Boteler Thomas Orme Frederick Garner R. Moore Levin D. Miles Southey Parker Andrew Collingwood Wm. Goss Edmund Hanly John Hutchison John Goodrich John Mattingly William Powers Jos. Beardsley Samuel Brereton F. Lowndes John Woodside, Wash- M. Adler ington city, a place Jno. Lutz of merchandise in hu- J. Dicksen man beings !!! Benj. Harrison S. Handy, jr. S. McKean A. Ferguson John N. Lovejoy, jr. Benjamin Sibley Mos. Martin John Curl Louis Frank his ⋈ mark Henry Schley Lemuel Williams George Esling John Wise Danl. Moore Wm. Peake Thos. Thorpe Geo. Macdaniel James C. Dunn Alexr. Suter W. Engleman

Richard Elliott Samuel Sutton Eli Palmer Wm. Didenhover Jno. N. Waters Leonard Ellis John S. Nevius Jos. S. Collins James Birth Zachariah Smoot Robert Simons Thomas Towers Augusta Davis F. Davis Robert White -Richard Davis J. S. Morsell, as to his Basil Ragon own rights and property, but noneothers. Francis Doyle Wm. C. Atwater James Kennedy John Claxton Henry Gaither Henry Pyfer J. Carter, jr. Jacob Carter, sen. Daniel Stevens Moore Dickson Sampson Avard Jeremiah Orme D. English Joel Brown Samuel Tucker Thomas B. Griffin H. Yerkes A. R. Watson Tho. Carbery Charles Schley Archibald Thompson James Hutchinson J. S. Scott Wm. W. Scott Levin Belt Robert King Joseph Marechal Lewis Salomon James Hutton John Collingwood

Peter Johnson William Johnson · Samuel Harkness, jr. John Brackenridge Gideon Beall Job B. Mills Wm. Thomson, jr. John R. Hews Henry Chamberlin Benjamin Burgess John Hoover David Hoover John Ricksuker George G. Shaw Calvert Roszel Richard Glover W. Lang Joseph Milligan Grafton Lowell Ignatius Newton Levin Cartwright Arnold Boone Matthew Mitchel David Hughes Samuel Cunningham Michael Sardo John Wilson Patrick Donnoghue James L. Edwards Jacob Hilbus John M. Moore J. N. Campbell J. Wells, jr. David Young Jos. P. McCorkle D. H. Haskell Richard Cutts H. S. Gardiner Hiram Jenkins L. Brooks Jos. Mountz L. Edwards Edward Douglass Geo. Lowry Daniel Baker John T. Tracy John G. Jones John Hepburn James Harthow John Eslin

Peter Callan Henry Eckardt John A. Knott Charles Cumberland Joseph Higdon John Taylor Nathan Moore James Ord, as regards his own rights and property, but none others. James Kelly W. Brown Samuel Rose, sen. Charles O'Neill Silas Moore John Wilson G. Cozens Julius Watkins Roland Clapp Abraham Hines Wm. Godfrey Wm. R. Spalding W. Wade Chas. Tilley Francis King U. F. Hyde Thomas McDonnell William Ingman William Thos. Cole William L. Newton John Tretler Thos. H. Beall Alexander Scott John Coppersmith Noble Hurdle George Upperman George Cilar George Upperman, jr. Abraham Stoner Robert S. Clements Joseph Cogswell Thos. Holtzman, con. Alexander S. Littlejohn Danl. Bryan Joseph Jackson S. B. Balch Adam Young, jr. Thomas Dove John Robinson James Leander Cath- Thos. Vowell cart, provided that Jas. Vansant the slaves, when libe- Isaac Cannell

rated, shall emigrate John D. Vowell to the settlement of J. R. Janney Liberia, at their own S. W. Smith expense, if able, if Josiah H. Davis not, at the expense of Wm. Morgan either the Abolition David Martin ment, as the case may James Lyles be; but they must Adam Lynn emigrate. liberated, shall emi- Geo. Johnson grate to the settle- Samuel Mark ment of Liberia, at John P. Coroman their own, or the cx- Elisha Talbott pense of either the Abijah Janney Abolition or Coloni- Tho. Jacobs zation Society, or that Wm. Stabler of the Government, John Douglass as the case may be; Daniel McLeod but they must leave William Price the United States. E. French.-Their free - Simon Dearborn dom at 25, coupled J. H. White with the condition that John H. Mark they leave the district. John Green M. Laub.—Their A. D. Harmon freedom at 25, cou- Charles Pascoe pled with the condi- John Creighton tion that they leave Levi Pickering the District imme- Thos. Stelle diately thereafter. Stephen B. Balch John Boose Henry Whitcroft J. Mechlin. jr. James G. Jones Thomas Conner John Milburns Jonah Thompson Bernard Bryan Reuel Keith Tho. Semmes Benj. Baden Gery Atkinson W. Bartleman

or Colonization So- Wm. A. Williams ciety, or the Govern- Thomas Mount Thomas Sanford Geo. Gilliss, provided Robert W. Hunter that the slaves, when Luther Chambertain Kinzey Griffith Richd. Rock Robt. Hodgkin Harrison Bradley Moses O. B. Cawood William L. Gibson John Major Richd. D. Emerson Silas Veitch William Campbel R. A. Bowie R. R. Gurley Benj. B. Beall John P. Van Ness is opposed to the trade, though he knows nothing of the case of the colored man sold for fees, &c. Wm. Reynolds

Cary Pratt C. P. Thompson F. Peyton John J. Sayrs Horatio Day Presley Jacobs Jacob Baugh John C. Mundell John Wood Thos. L. Martin Jas. Douglass, jr. Benj. Barton A. O. Douglass Jno. M. Johnson Robert H. Miller Thomas Taylor Wm. Veitch John B. Hancock N. S. Wise A. P. Gower Wm. Lanphier Edw'd Sheehy Lincoln Chamberlain Phineas Janney John W. Massie Job Guest T. Waugh J. Shackelford John M. Monroe John Harper Wm. L. Kennedy James Entwisle Robert L. White Hiram Youst Benj. Waters Robt. Munro John Patten Wm. Foret Samuel B. Shreve Jonathan Field / Oliver Field James Clare Daniel Riggs David Price Geo. H. Smoot E. Corning George Jacobs Edward Goodwin Stephen Shinn James Thomas Wm. C. Spilman John R. Mills

Elias Harrison Solomon Parsons Mordecai Miller Samuel Plummer Jonathan Shillaber Ezra Lunt, Charles Mankin Thomas Smith James P. Coleman Isaac Kell J. W. Fairclough Thomas Drury George Drinker Joseph Janney Basil B. Hopkins Samuel Isaacs John Grubb Benjamin S. Kinsey Daniel Cawood Jon. Ross Nath. Perry John Rodgers Edward Smyth Benoni Wheat Ephraim Evans Daniel Evans John Roach William Patterson H. R. Whitney Samuel Baggett J. R. Riddle Alexander Perry Reid Cross Charles Kooms Hugh M. Logan Levi Hurdle Jos. Euches Gerrard Plummer John Snyder W. C. Walton H. Wilbar O. L. Morse R. A. Rudd W. H. Miller Samuel M. Januey Benjamin Hallowell James Atkinson A. Faw Samuel Wheeler T. C. Tuley John Girt Samuel Janney

Samuel Peach John Steiner George Umbaugh John Glasco Daniel Serrin Henry Cross Jonathan Chapman Washington Lewis James Troth John Skippon Robert Barnes John N. Macer Robert Earl J.' Maul William A. Collins Alexander C. Moore Massam W. Moore James Thompson, jr. Daniel Hincs George Wattles [Illegible] John Connell Erasimus Ashton . W. H. Bonvuc Thomas G. Moore Jeremiah Crown Thomas Riggles J. Simpson John Dailey George Dailey Isaac Wilson William Simkins Peter Williams Andrew Danby William Parker Christopher Cammack Nathan Edmonston James Lewis Josiah Esseg John Wilson Elias E. Williams George Mattingly Jarrett Taylor John Barry Henry Ryan John Courtency John Hines, sen. Robert M. Harrison J. Douglas Thomas I. Mudd Thomas F. Harkness Peter Cox

Joseph Boteler Peter Davis John W. Queen John Hillyard William Paradise Thomas S. Bingey Philip Williams C. Beatly Enoch Spalding William Coleman B. O. Shekell R. Burch James Watson John R. Watson E. Shey John Guthrie Joseph Thorpe David Hope  ${f W}$ m.  ${f M}$ c ${f P}$ herson Josias M. Speake Thomas S. Dorrall Thomas E. Baker Dison Moran Francis Godfrey Phill. Tracy Aquilia Banister Philip Hines John Drum Levy Biggs Samuel Cross Arthur Pritchard James Adams G. W. Hanes G. H. Jones Smith Luciford J. Peters Charles Jones John J. Sothvan Daniel Reintzel Thomas Henson William Mead Samuel Rainey Daniel Rhea George Wise John G. Berry Jesse Fox Louis Vivans William Dant Patricius Hepburn James Maitland George Cameron Patrick McGee

William Markward Henry Bishop William Bage Alexander Beedle W. Wannall William Matthews Ethan Allen Wm. Ryland Wm. D. Acken John Kelly Edward Barry James Martin John Judge Wm. Easby Thomas Lyndall Mordecai Booth Geo. Adams Samuel Hilton John Nowland James Owner Wm. Speiden Jo. Ratcliff Henry Aukward Robert Clarke Joseph Herbert James Danford Wm. Emack David Our Jeremiah Keily James Marshall Rollin H. Neale Robert Brown James Douglas James Martin James Nairu Robert Isherwood William Sutherland Thomas McIntosh Francis Hanna Thomas Howard Moses Shelton William Walker James Friend M. D. C. Marsh John Van Riswick Clement T. Coote John Chase Levi White William Peter Thomas Wheat Charles Venable George W. Grant

Thomas White James Bowen Edward Sweeny Bernard Gideny D. Butler, jr. John B. Ferguson Joseph Borrows Wm. Elder Edward W. Clark Alexander McWilliams E. Baldwin John Carothers Daniel Page Wm. Thompson James Ewell John Pic Jehu Bayne Daniel G. Hickey John H. Smoot D. Vermillion Richard O. Hare Robert Armistead Henry Tirtjen Thomas. M. Scholfield Samuel B. Ellis Philemon Moss George Duckworth Thomas Fogles James Suallan James Crandle Philip Otterback George Venable John M. Greene Walter Armstrong Jeremiah Perkins James Bury George Collard Wm. Doughty John Stillins Robert Clarke George Bean Benjamin Bean Griffith Coombs Wm. A. Smallwood George Scott Wm. Hawley John McChicand George Wood Robert Miller Elijah Chaney James Rowan Patrick Delaney

Jacob Janney Samuel Holtzman R. P. Anderson Nicholas Callan Wm. Galloway Daniel Cover Enoch Reynolds Andrew Harper David S. Waters A. Noerr John McLeod William Dowling Thomas H. Morgan Thomas Rigden Thomas F. Harrison William Harrison Pishey Thompson J. D. Smith Wm. Sawkins Christian Eckloff Godfrey Eckloff Lodowick Sheppard A. Jewitt Wm. Pote Wm. Harvey Daniel Hauptman J. M. Staughton Charles Longden James Lusby George Caton John Tabler Alexander Guy Joseph Wheaton Abraham Butler John Colburn H. Jenkins Jonas P. Keller David A. Gardner Robert B. Boyd W. W. Billing George Bushey Jos. Evritt Samuel Sryock Robert Miller Abraham J. Boss Charles B. Brown Jeremiah Gittings Joseph Gibson C. L. Coltman Matthias Jeffers John Allen Thomas K. Gray

Wm. T. Griffith Thomas H. Brooks Samuel Ditty Jonas Newell Wm. H. Ward Charles Lyons John Coad Thomas Gerion John Wood David Munro George Crandell Benjamin Adams Wm. H. Prentiss W. Douglass L. H. Macher F. Keller John Foulkes Lund Washington J. F. Caldwell C. P. Sengstack W. Ward Cornelius McDermott Wm. Lloyd Clement McWilliams Igns. Milstead Joseph S. Wilson Wm. Ratcliff, sen. Dillon Hodgson Wm. Ratcliff, jr. James Clephane Allan Thompson Wm. H. Clementson Joseph F. Reed Enoch Arnold Rezin Orme W. H. Stewart Willard Drake W. B. Benson A. Cheshire Peter Lenox Wm. Lowry George Hercus Joseph Done Henry Ould J. W. Hand Wm. Archer Charles Prysé Anthony Preston John P. Davis Nelson Davidson Rignel G. Chaney Joseph Fagan

John Coleman J. Watson Henry Barron Josiah Bosworth John G. Robinson James Edward Smith J. M. Baker John Duncanson Andrew T. McCormick Charles F. Wood George A. Smoot Wm. C. Ellison Samuel L. Knapp Sabret C. Barrett G. P. Maxwell Samuel Sherwood **A. W**oodward Benjamin Harwood William Ryan Charles F. Ellis William Dykes A. S. Stinchcomb William Martin James Thompson William Gleason Samuel Harwood William Rigsby Walter Hutcherson Peter M. Pearson William Sexsmith J. McFarland Robert Jackson H. Anderson Neal McNantz Benson McKenny William M. Ellis Charles Langley Benjamin Jones John Bright Thomas Richardson James Smith John L. Suit Joshua J. Henry A. Ramsay, jr. John Blackburne Joseph Cox Washington Duvall Thomas Gibson Robert King Dennis Orsburn Lewis A. Newman Thomas Anderson

# Doc. No. 140.

Abel Cannon William Moody George H. Grant Richard Harrison Owen McCue [Illegible] Nathaniel Durity + Michael Nash J. L. Martin James Fry + Joseph Helroyd John Brady Robert Speiden Frederick Hogge Larson Holm Anthony Somers Peter J. Herold Edward Mudd A. G. Herold Michael Quigley Wm. Coltman George McDuell John Bailey Edward W. Lewis Wm. Slade John F. Thiel Alexius Simms Abys Simms Richard Moony

John Lynch John Sessford Samuel Myers Archibald Thompson Wm. Thomson James Baxter Edward Holland Joshua Towson James Hagan Joseph L. Scholfield Seth Cartwright George Cover Daniel Cover Aquila Lockwood Andrew Scholfield Wm. Harper, sen. Isaac Robbins James M. McRea J. C. May James Hoban Robert W. Fenwick John Ward Henry Burdick M. Hines, by J. Janny Thomas Bates Merrit Tarlton James M. Hosier Wm. Gardner Thomas Parsons

John D. Murphey James Miller [Illegible] W. Kutherford John M. Kennedy John Little Wm. Harvy John McDuell Wm. Borland Wm. H. Berry Anthony Faulke John McCutchen John Mount John H. Harris B. W. Hunt Henry Dawes Owen Summers Samuel Chilton Jesse Cromwell John Cromwell Henry Dashiell Samuel Heinecke James Davis V. Carter Basil H. Waring Richard H. Williams Elisha Dawes Daniel Shryer