



MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

ADVERSE

*To any legislation on the part of Congress, on the subject of slavery in  
said District.*

FEBRUARY 7, 1839.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United  
States :*

The undersigned, inhabitants of the District of Columbia, beg leave

RESPECTFULLY TO REPRESENT :

That they have seen with unfeigned regret, notwithstanding the marked disapprobation with which your honorable bodies have heretofore treated similar petitions, that numerous inconsiderate and misguided individuals, in various parts of the United States, still continue to press upon your honorable bodies applications for the abolition of slavery within this District.

In the first place, your memorialists do not desire the enactment of any law for the extinction of slavery within this District, even conceding the very questionable right of your honorable bodies to pass such an act without the consent of the people whose interests are to be especially involved in its provisions ; and, in the second place, we respectfully suggest, that whatever may be your powers or our duties in this regard, it is a question solely between you, our *only* constitutional legislators, and ourselves ; is entirely municipal in its character, and one in which no exterior influence has any just right to interpose or invoke your action. These propositions your memorialists deem too plain to need any argument to sustain them. If, at any future period, it shall be the desire of the people of this District that slavery shall be abolished by law, they will doubtless make their wishes known to Congress, the Legislature provided for them by the constitution, and it will then be time enough for your honorable bodies to take the matter into consideration.

It is not that your memorialists are slave-holders that they present these views to your honorable bodies ; many of them do not own slaves, and some of them might be forbidden by conscience to hold any, but these, nevertheless, unite with others in this prayer to your honorable bodies, not only from the just respect due to the legal rights of those of their neighbors

who do possess slaves, but from a deep conviction that the continual agitation of the subject by those who can have no right to interfere with it is calculated to have an injurious influence on the peace and tranquillity of the community, and upon the well being and happiness of those who are held in subjection.

Your memorialists, therefore, beg leave as well to protest against the unauthorized interference of which they complain, as to deprecate any legislation on the part of your honorable bodies, in compliance therewith.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will every pray, &c.

Peter Force  
 George Sweeny  
 T. D. Jones  
 John Catlett  
 Henry Bradley  
 William Miller  
 George & Thomas Parker  
 S. N. Washburne  
 Thomas T. Barnes  
 William H. Wallace  
 B. R. Bohrer  
 J. B. Wingerd  
 A. E. Perry  
 William M. Perry  
 Samuel Phillips  
 Samuel Robinson  
 Anthony Holmead  
 J. S. Clagett  
 J. L. Peabody  
 Alexander McIntire  
 J. A. M. Duncanson  
 James C. Watson  
 Jonathan Elliot  
 Henry Slade  
 J. H. Smith  
 Michael Nourse  
 Richard Washington  
 George Savage  
 J. B. Morgan  
 B. Talbott  
 Benjamin Ogle Tayloe  
 B. Hall  
 Samuel T. Wall  
 G. W. Phillips  
 T. F. Semmes  
 B. K. Morsell  
 Louis Beeler  
 M. L. Gittings  
 John H. Donohoo  
 William Emack  
 E. G. Emack  
 J. C. McKelden

R. C. Weightman  
 George A. Adams  
 Robert T. Patterson  
 Thomas Hanley  
 S. Matlock  
 Charles P. Waunall  
 George S. Gideon  
 Columbus Drew  
 William T. Griffith  
 George Lambright  
 Joseph Bryan  
 William Dunnawin  
 Samuel Wells  
 C. Edmonston  
 John C. Harkness  
 A. McD. Davis  
 Harvey Cruttenden  
 Richard McClosky  
 Thomas MacGill  
 Thomas Owen  
 Joseph Harbaugh  
 Theodore Harbaugh  
 James Birth  
 Robert Keyworth  
 A. C. Smith  
 Pierce Shoemaker  
 S. P. Franklin  
 F. C. Dyer  
 Robert W. Dyer  
 Thomas Miller  
 E. H. James  
 C. H. James  
 John Coburn  
 Seth Hyatt  
 Richard Wright  
 J. B. Holmead  
 Selby Parker  
 James Adams  
 John F. Webb  
 B. F. Middleton  
 Benjamin Beall  
 Ignatius Mudd

Addison Conaway  
 Robert H. Simmes  
 C. W. Boteler  
 John M. Donn  
 Charles W. Boteler, jr.  
 Isaac Beers  
 Thomas K. Gray  
 Jno. C. Kneller  
 Jeremiah Perkins  
 F. K. Offutt  
 John S. Chancey  
 W. H. Stanford  
 Wm. Henry Upperman  
 R. H. Clements  
 James Young, jr.  
 B. L. Bayley  
 John Radcliff  
 George Watterston  
 Benjamin E. Gittings  
 Edward Simms  
 Elias H. Perry  
 Charles H. Lane  
 W. W. Lowe  
 Lewis Wright  
 William Tucker  
 Daniel Mitchell  
 Samuel S. Briggs  
 James Eslin  
 J. P. Pepper  
 R. W. Polkinhorn  
 Alexander Lee  
 Benjamin Burns  
 Wm. Hayman  
 Wm. T. Duvall  
 James Lusby  
 John Galligher  
 E. K. Ward  
 Joseph France  
 James France  
 Joseph Borrowes  
 H. W. Sweeting  
 C. J. R. Thorpe  
 J. B. Gorman  
 Wm. P. Flint  
 T. H. Bowen  
 J. R. Thompson  
 M. Brown  
 Jesse Brown  
 Tillotson P. Brown  
 Williar: Walsh  
 A. H. Young  
 W. C. Orme  
 Wm. Wallis  
 Samuel Kirby  
 Zachariah Brown  
 Francis J. Pierce  
 John Hurley  
 Robert Dextley  
 Francis Mattingly  
 S. W. Handy  
 James B. Phillips  
 Noah Wilson  
 Joseph Thomas  
 C. C. Berry  
 Samuel Cooper  
 P. Ord  
 Christopher Cammack  
 Marius T. Clarke  
 E. G. Handy  
 George Stettinius  
 William Stettinius  
 John H. Drury  
 Charles Stott  
 Hugh B. Sweeney  
 W. B. Jackson  
 Jno. E. Foulkes  
 S. B. Boarman  
 Francis Hanna  
 Jno. L. Smith  
 J. T. Ryon  
 Peter F. Bacon  
 W. G. W. White  
 Richard Brooke  
 R. W. Brooke  
 A. Coyle  
 B. L. Jackson  
 Wm. B. Jackson  
 Samuel N. Smallwood  
 Thomas N. Brashears  
 C. Eckloff  
 Thomas B. Griffin  
 A. Hoover  
 W. K. Stores  
 Thomas Pursell  
 William B. Kibbey  
 William Dant  
 John Brannan  
 Francis Dant  
 John Seagrove  
 Leonidas Coyle  
 George M. Grouard  
 J. Deeble  
 J. Delano  
 J. F. Callan

James Clephane  
J. Harbaugh, jr.  
John Tretler  
Charles Lemon  
Joseph A. Deeble  
Thomas Sessford  
Joshua Benner  
William W. Moore  
William A. Rind  
Samuel McElwee  
John Stockwell  
A. J. K. Baker  
J. Gaither  
E. Laporte  
W. Mowbray  
John T. C. Clark

John Cabbee  
Henry Polkinhorn  
John N. Moulder  
R. J. Pollard  
P. H. Brooks  
David S. Porter  
William E. Morecoe  
F. Edmonston  
A. Addison  
Thomas A. Scott  
D. Saunders  
James White  
Thomas Cookendorfer  
Walter Clarke  
Walter M. Clarke  
Joseph B. Ford