The President and Members of the Society
for promoting the Abolition of Slavery
in the
State of
Delaware

favored by
Joseph West

Lancaster History

Philadelphia 5Mo. 17. 1788

Respected Friends

The Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and the relief of Free Negroes unlawfully held in bondage, having experienced reciprocal advantage resulting from a communication with a society, founded on similar principles, lately established in London; and a correspondence with a number of distinguished individuals in Europe and elswhere, productive of important benefits, have induced them to believe, that from our local situation and general interest, so closely interwoven, an occasional intercourse with your Society cannot fail of promoting the Object of our joint Labours —— We therefore take the earliest opportunity of advising you that at a late general Meeting the Subscribers were appointed a Committee for the above purpose; with instructions to forward a few of the printed Copies of the several Acts of our Legislature for the gradual Abolition of Slavery in Pennsylvania; and the constitution of our Society comprised in one pamphlet, with an address upon this interesting occasion —— agreeably thereunto we now furnish you with Nine of them, which we desire may be so disposed as in your opinion may best answer the design of their Publication —— At a time

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when the cause of the long oppressed Africans and their descendants has engaged the attention of Europe, and Men of the most acknowledged abilities are found their warm advocates; When a traffic so evidently founded in oppression and injustice is, apparently, on the eve of dissolution; — it becomes a circumstance of much regret to the well wishers of humanity, that any of the American States should, at this enlightened period, be found to countenance a trade so repugnant to the principles of Christianity and the rights of humanity — And yet surprising as it may be, a recent and melancholy case can be produced, that in consequence of a late supplementary act to our abolition code, a Ship called the Black Prince, fitted out of our port last fall, having made Voyage to the Coast of Guinea, from thence, with a Cargo of unhappy Human beings, proceeded to the West Indies, where, having consigned them to perpetual Slavery the proceeds was invested in the produce of that Country, and finding their return to Philadelphia inadmissable, that Cargo has been landed at Wilmington in your State; and in detached parcels conveyed to this City, thereby directly controuling the benevolent views of our Legislature: Persuaded as we are of your disposition cordially to cooperate with us in preventing a repetition of similar practices in future, so disgraceful to humanity — we take the

liberty to suggest to your consideration, the propriety of your promoting a general Petition to your Assembly, for the enacting such an additional law as well effectually prevent, in future, your State from being a Sanctuary to the open Violators of the rights of human Nature —

Among the several addresses our President, Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, has received from different Governors of the Continent, the answer from Thomas Collins, Esquire, President of your State, was such a pleasing proof of the propriety of the Liberation and freedom of those people, that there can be no doubt of the Measure we have suggested meeting his warmest approbation —

We remain respectfully

Your Friends

Thos: Harrison

Caleb Lowns

John Olden

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