

# HUMAN RIGHTS—EXTRA.

## VERY IMPORTANT!!!

WORK FOR THE FREE, TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY!

On this page will be found several forms of petitions to Congress and State Legislatures, which, after the paper is read, may be cut out and pasted on a blank half sheet of foolscap, to be immediately circulated.

### EXPLANATIONS, &c.

The right of petition is one of the most sacred ever enjoyed by man. When that is lost, there is little left in civil government which is valuable.—In this country, that right is now jeopardized,—yea, well nigh destroyed. The time to exercise it the most effectually, is when it is endangered. The people should rally round it NOW, as the only means of preserving it from immolation.

1. *Petitions to Congress.*—Number 1, relates to the *District of Columbia*. That is now a test question. As it shall be decided, so will be the fate of liberty in this nation.

No. 2, relates to the *Territories*. The question in regard to them, stands on the same basis with that of the District, as to the responsibilities of northern citizens.

No. 3, concerning the *slave-trade between the States*, occupies high ground. Congress has declared the traffic in men on the high seas, and on the coast of Africa, piracy. Is it less piratical in America?

No. 4, is intended to meet the expected application of *Florida*, for admission to the Union, as a *slave State*. Petitions remonstrating against this, should be ready in season, so that we may not be taken by surprise, as in the case of Arkansas.

No. 5, relating to *TEXAS*, is of extreme importance. If that immense slave-holding territory, large enough for six or eight States as big as Kentucky, is annexed to the Union, it will probably involve us in a war with Mexico, (if not with foreign powers)—will open a large slave market, and thus give a new spring to slavery in the old States,—will give the slave-holding interst a fearful predominance in the nation,—will enable the South to trample freedom of speech and of the press, the right of petition and of locomotion, the right of organization, and even of prayer for the slaves, under foot, by law, and by constitution; for they may soon have the power (and will they lack the inclination?) to alter our United States Constitution to their wishes. And would the North submit to this? We fear the Union will be dissolved, if Texas is annexed to it.

No. 6, also relates to Texas. The reason we send two kinds of petitions concerning Texas, is that some persons, either because they did not know all the facts stated in it, or for some other reason, might be unwilling to sign the long petition, (No. 5) but might be willing to sign the short one, (No. 6.) Of course the same person ought not to sign both.

II. *Petitions to State Legislatures.*—Number 7, asks these bodies to declare by resolutions, that Congress possesses power to abolish slavery, and the slave trade, in the District of Columbia, &c. &c., (see petition) and that it ought to exercise that power immediately. Such a declaration, at this juncture, would have immense influence upon Congress, and the public generally. It also asks these bodies to instruct their Senators, and request their Representatives, on all these topics, (see petition.) This will greatly encourage the members of Congress. They will feel sustained and impelled onward by it, in their struggle to maintain our rights. Too much importance, we think, can not be attached to this petition.

No. 8, prays for the repeal of all laws which make distinctions among our citizens, on account of color. This applies to the anti-republican and unchristian statutes of Ohio, New York, &c. &c. There is scarcely a State where such laws do not disgrace the statute book. If there be any such State, this petition need not be circulated there.

No. 9, relates to a *trial by jury* for persons claimed as fugitive slaves. Such a law is demanded by the plainest principles of justice, and by the U. S. Constitution. It has recently been granted in New Jersey and Massachusetts. From these facts, we may be encouraged to ask for it in other States. In Massachusetts and New Jersey it need not be circulated, of course.

No. 10, is intended to urge our State Legislatures to take the same ground in regard to *Florida*, which they did pending the "Missouri question," in regard to that State.

No. 11, is concerning the annexation of Texas. This ought to be signed by every friend of God and man.

III. *Suggestions and hints.*—1. We must rely upon you to see that this work is done in your town.

2. You, with the other friends of liberty and mercy, must make sacrifices, if necessary, to circulate these petitions. We know it will cost time, trouble, and perhaps money; but, if we remember them that are in bonds as bound with them, it will be a delightful service. We must not forget that Congress has denied the

right of the slave to petition for mercy;—therefore, we should be the more eager to petition in his behalf. It is noble to speak for the dumb. The present extreme pecuniary pressure, renders it impossible to send out as many lecturers to convert men to our principles as we had contemplated;—therefore, we must make the most of our abolitionism, by bringing it all into use. Every man and woman must be an agent.

3. We beseech you to commence obtaining names "immediately," and to canvass your town thoroughly. Leave not a person unvisited. Heretofore, the work has been commenced too late, and has often been very superficially performed. If each one will do their duty, we can lay 500,000 names on the tables of Congress at its next session. That body is more powerfully moved by large numbers, than by strong arguments. Let them be thoroughly plied.

4. Do not say, "It will do no good—they are incorrigible." We have a duty to perform; and good has been done. The discussions in Congress and in our State Legislatures, have greatly promoted our righteous cause. We point with exultation to the noble action in the Legislature of Vermont and Massachusetts, as proofs that legislative bodies are not immovable. It is good policy to do the very thing your opponents wish you not to do. Acting on this rule, we should flood our National and State Legislatures with memorials. Our best friends in Congress urge us to petition. A noble band will stand by our rights at the next session.

5. The petition to Congress concerning Texas, should be ready for presentation at the opening of the extra session, on the first Monday of September next.

6. We have brought forward the different topics in separate petitions, because some might be willing to petition for one or more objects, who might not be willing to petition for all. We suggest, that all the petitions should be circulated at the same time. This will be an economy of labor; and, generally, those who would sign one, would sign all.

7. We earnestly hope you will see that all the towns in your county are supplied with blank petitions. If they are not, we trust you will draft and send copies of the annexed, to some suitable persons in each town, who will circulate them, with the request that they will then return them to you. For this service, the slave has no other one to rely upon but yourself.

8. The signing of these petitions, we trust,

will not be confined to abolitionists. All who hate slavery, and love the cause of mercy, and would preserve our free institutions, should put their names to them, without regard to their views of abolitionism. It should be a movement of THE PEOPLE. Abolitionists are not alone interested;—the interests of ALL are involved. This consideration should be emphatically urged.

IV. *Small, but necessary matters.*—1. Cut the petitions apart, and paste each one at the top of a half sheet of paper.

2. Fill the first blank, in the body of the petition, with the words, "citizens," or "inhabitants," or "legal voters," or "women," &c. &c., as the case may require.

3. Fill the second blank, in the body of the petition, with the name of the city or town, if to a State Legislature; and with the city or town, and the county, if to Congress. The proper method of filling the third blank is obvious.

4. Names should be signed only on one side of the paper. Paste on, till it is long enough.

5. Let every one write their own name. Names should not be copied on—it might lead to a suspicion that they were forged.

6. If you wish to circulate the petitions in different towns, or in different parts of the same town, at the same time, copy off the petitions, and circulate.

7. Males and females can both sign the same petition, if necessary. If women wish to sign petitions separate from the men, some female can copy off the petition, and circulate—otherwise, they are requested to sign the same petition; but in that case, their names should be kept in separate columns. If males under twenty one years old, and females under sixteen, sign, their ages should be put down opposite their names.

8. When the petitions are completed, they can be forwarded from each town to Congress, by mail, (while that body is in session,) directed to some member, accompanied by a letter. There is no postage to be paid by any one. Petitions of any size may be sent to a member of Congress, postage free. Letters to go free, must not way over two ounces.

All petitions, except those in regard to Texas, we now think, should not be forwarded to Congress, until the regular meeting in December next. Circumstances, yet to happen, may render it necessary to send them on earlier. The Texas petitions should be before that body at its opening, in September. It might be well to hand them to your member of Congress before he starts for Washington.

Arrangements may be made in some sections, to have all the petitions from a county pasted together, and sent in one roll. This may be desirable, in those cases where it is perfectly convenient, and where it will cause no delay.

9. Petitions to State Legislatures should be forwarded to some member of those bodies, accompanied by a letter.

10. The names on each petition to Congress, and to the State Legislatures, should be counted, and the number put in figures at the top, before it is forwarded. This is important.

11. If any information is wished on any of the above topics, please direct a letter by mail to HENRY B. STANTON, No. 143 Nassau-street, New York city, and it shall receive attention. Blank petitions, to any amount, may be had of him.

12. If the individual to whom this is addressed, cannot, on account of some providential hindrance, immediately attend to it, we trust he or she will give it to some one who will attend to it without delay. Important matters, requiring such prompt attention, ought not to be neglected.

1. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body immediately to abolish SLAVERY, and the SLAVE TRADE, in the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

2. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, immediately to abolish SLAVERY, and the SLAVE TRADE, in those TERRITORIES of the United States where they exist.

3. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, so to exercise the Constitutional power vested in you "to regulate COMMERCE AMONG THE SEVERAL STATES," as entirely to prohibit the Domestic Slave Trade.

4. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, not to admit any NEW STATE to this Union, whose Constitution tolerates DOMESTIC SLAVERY.

5. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, promptly to reject all proposals for the annexation of TEXAS to this Union, from whatever source they may come, for the following, among other, reasons:

1. Although the independence of Texas has been recognized by this government, yet, it has not been acknowledged by Mexico, and is now forcibly resisted by that power;—therefore its annexation to the Union, might involve this nation in a war with Mexico.—Against any measure, tending to such a result, we remonstrate.

2. While we do not claim for Congress, the power to abolish slavery in the several States, we are opposed to its further extension by that body, and hence are decidedly hostile to the annexation of Texas to the Union, with a Constitution which expressly sanctions slavery, and encourages the slave trade between that country and the United States.

3. Texas has a territory of sufficient extent to make six large States. It being the avowed intention to continue it a slave-holding country, its annexation to the Union will give predominant power, in our national councils, to the slave-holding interest, and will reduce to complete subjection, the interests of the free States, and especially the interests of their FREE LABOR, which is the foundation of their wealth and prosperity. Such a result would probably lead to a DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION,—an event we sincerely deprecate.

6. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, promptly to reject all proposals for the annexation of TEXAS to this Union, from whatever source they may come.

7. To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, to adopt resolutions, declaring:

1. That Congress has the constitutional power to abolish slavery, and the slave trade, in the District of Columbia.  
2. That it has the constitutional power to abolish them in the several Territories of the Union, where they exist.  
3. That it has the constitutional power to prohibit the slave trade between the several States of the Union.  
4. That, in regard to all these particulars, Congress ought immediately to exercise that power.

We also pray your honorable body, to send a copy of said resolutions to each of the Senators and Representatives of this State, in Congress, to be by them laid before that body;—to the Governors of the several States, to be by them laid before their respective legislatures; and to the President of the United States.

We further pray your honorable body, to instruct the Senators, and request the Representatives, of this State, in Congress, to use their utmost influence, for the immediate abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia; and in those Territories of the Union where they exist;—and also for the immediate prohibition of the slave trade between the several states.

8. To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, immediately to repeal all laws in this State, which make any distinction among its inhabitants, on account of COLOR.

9. To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, immediately to pass a law, securing to every human being in this State, a TRIAL BY JURY, in all cases where his or her liberty is in question.

10. To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, to protest against the admission of any new State to this Union, whose Constitution tolerates domestic slavery;—and to forward a copy of such protest, to each of the Senators and Representatives of this State, in Congress, to be by them laid before that body;—to the Governors of the several States, to be by them laid before their respective legislatures; and to the President of the United States. We also pray you, to instruct the Senators, and request the Representatives, of this State, in Congress, to use their utmost influence to prevent the admission of any new State to the Union, whose Constitution tolerates domestic slavery.

11. To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully pray your honorable body, to protest, without delay, against the annexation of Texas to this Union;—and to forward a copy of said protest to each of the Senators, and Representatives, of this State, in Congress, to be by them laid before that body;—to the Governors of the several States, to be by them laid before their respective legislatures; and to the President of the United States. We also pray you, to instruct the Senators, and request the Representatives, of this State, in Congress, to use their utmost influence to prevent the annexation of Texas to this Union.