

76710

1

Donor: Passmore Williamson Lloyd

8
Philadelphia County Prison

27
Chas D. Cleveland, the print who visited Papmas
Williamson after he was incarcerated
Dillwyn, Garrick who accompanied
P.W. to prison, &
notified his wife of his commitment

16
J. W. M. Tins, Anti-Slavery Office
Phil^a

Maria L. Halliwell

Joshua J. Jeanes

Wm W. Furness

Joshua L. Wallomb

Huldah Justice

Eliza Ann Russell

Caleb Clothier

Sept. 22 J. P. Curingham Mrs OS North 15th St Philad^a

Joshua W Ark mth do

Frank A Elms do

William Frederick

Wm S Sinkler

Samuel Townsend

Mira Townsend

Emily S Stackhouse

Lydia Gillingham

J S Littlefield

A C Parker

Rachel Wilson

J Ellwood Chapman

Oliver A Wilson

C. A. Malbon

~~Joseph~~
C. J. Colbert

Christian Perry

Arthur R. Folgeray

24 John J. Goyne

Wm S. Wilson

Benjamin Percival

Phiny E. Chase

Joseph Warner

Wm S. Stewardson

Sept. 24. Miriam Edson North Brookfield Mass
 Mrs. Edson Philad^a
 John Hewston Philad^a Prison Inspector
 Henry R. Smith Cleveland, Ohio
 Burkitt Webb Philadelphia
 Sarah Tyndale Philadelphia
 A. Adley Manning Brooklyn N.Y.
George W. Maudslayi Philadelphia
 Catharine H. Truman do do
 Jane C. Hunt Waterloo N.Y.
 Mary H. Truman Philad^a
George Truman Jr "

Wm. S. Perot

9th Mo. 25th 1838. Little Paul Philad^a
 D^o. J. H. Lavender do

Henry Davis
 Robt. Purvis
 Chas. Gibbons
Abm. W. Haine

Powell Stackhouse

Charles Evans M^c
 John Derbyshire
 E. H. Coggins

Sept 25 Henry Wilson Natick Mass
 " George A. Cottey, Philadelphia Pa.
 Wm B Thomas Philadelphia Pa
 William Eades Philadelphia
 Thos. Cavanaugh do.
 Ellwood Wilson M.D. do.
 Hannah P. Wilson "
 Caleb Canby "

26 Jos. P. Thompson New York city.
 A. Road Phila

26 Francis Church Pastor & Associate Pres^{nt} Church Broad & Lombard St
 Joseph T. Cooper Pastor of the 2^d A.S. Pres^{nt} Church Kensington

J. P. Dake M.D. Pittsburgh
 J. B. Brown M.D. Allegheny City

J. H. Scott Pittsburgh Pa

R. Straw do
 Saml. J. Crew Phila

Wm S Allinson Burlington N.J.

Elizabeth M Parsons Phila

Saml. J. Crew Richmond O

Wm S Crew Richmond O

John M. Wilson Phila

Kate S. Wilson " "
 Rebecca Wilson " "

Henry Floyd " "
 S. Townsend Brown Norristown Pa

Abraham W Sharples Dela^{ware} County Pa

Joseph Serot Philad^{elphia}

Charles Alley do

Sept. 26 Mary S. Brown, Norristown Pa.
Rebecca S. Hart Philad

Sept 27th Asa Jones Phila,
Isabel Lower Phila
Sarah Jackson Philad.
Wm V. Lower do.

Capt Chas Robbins } Master
Rev S. J. Burdell } Chaplain
Thacher Beal }
Levi Boker }
E H Brainard }
C S Burgess }
Robert Cowdin }
L. J. Crapin }
Chas G. Woodman }
F B Winter }
G W Messinger }
J A Cummins }
J N T. Stodder } Common Council Boston

Thomas Scattergood Philad
Chas S. Olne, S. S. Philad
Wm T. Mills Brooklyn Visitor
John Coshon Brooklyn N.Y. Visitor
J P Stackhouse Philad
Dr H Russell Sandwich Mass
Hannah V Newhall, Phil
Rev. O. Street & wife Andover Ct,
Mrs. Wilcox Philadelphia.

Sept. 28. E Calvert Williamsport Pa
 Chas Heiner Williamsport, Lycoming Co Pa
 Jacob Heiner Phila^a
 James Hoop Phila^a
 Mary Grew Phil.^a
 David D. Hastings Do & wife Wisconsin
 Wm P Webber Philadelphia
 Wm Hill Philadelphia
 Isaac H. Clothier Philada.
 William Pedrick Philada
 Thos Pedrick Do
 Sarah B. Sticraft Do
 John Greve Washington Co Ohio
 Joseph W Taylor Bucks Co
 " 29 Edward Kuntze Phila^a
 Charles H. Buxton Phil.^a
 29 David T. Burr. Philada^a
 Phiny E. Chan Do.
 Saml F. Carnall Friendsville Surgo^a Co.
 George Constantine Collins Philadelphia P.
 Thomas M^c Neilan Philadelphia
 John W Heins Do
 Henry B Fletcher Philadelphia
 Samuel Williams Phil.^a
 Thomas Price Phila^a
 William M. Dalrymple Philad^a
 Lewis S. Heins Do
 Henry Heins Do

Sept. 29 John Lafferty

Frederick Henry Winch } Deaf & Dumb Institute Philad
John Plummer James }

Benjamin J. Prickett
Charles Hawkins

Phila

Jos. G. Russell

Phila.

J. Haviland

Phila. da

Saml R. Drisley

Phila.

James D. Dyerly

Phila

P. Stackhouse Jr.

Phila

Emily S. Stackhouse

"

Martha P. Stotesbury

"

30 J. H. Schvincker

Henry C. Schomacker

W. D. Freshinuth

EM Green

Prof. S. T. Rogers

Maryland

Oct. 1. Joshua Maule - Colerain Belmont Co. Ohio

Isaac Jackson

Thos. H. Beveridge, Pastor 3d. Associate Presbyt. Ch. Race St.

Jonathan Anderson of Mayville Ky.

John Harley - Chester County Pa

Edward Richie

Phila

Joshua Chudron

Pa

Oct. 1. M. F. Lobs

Benjamin Coates Phila^{ea}
 Wm. J. Canby "
 George Canby

" Robert Palmer

" J. B. Meredith Steubenville Ohio

" Geo Orr Phila^{ea} "

Mary H. Willis

Mary Knight

Jonathan Chace

Henry Albertson

Charles W. Mitchell

Wm. Knitting

Israel H. Johnson

3. Wm. Chapman
 75

S. R. Downing.

W. H. Coates.

Thos. P. Evans

Henry Walling

Joshua R. Tibbitts, Germantown

Thomas Curtis. Philadelphia.

John Ship

Aug. Kollner

Oct. 3 Wm. Boynton 82 North 6th Street Phila
 " " Alceus B. Day - 47 Franklin St N.Y.
 Job Pyle

14 Humphreys - 290 Walnut Street -
 " Wm. M. Bull
 " John Everall
 " Geo. W. Ward 410 N 12th St.
 " Thos. Adamson S W Corner 10th & Poplar
 " W. H. Laver Philadelphia
 " T. L. Bowers C Md
 " Edward H. Hauckin Phila
 Wm. Afflick
 Robt. H. Hoist
 B. F. Afflick
Jaël Reeve
 R. Plumley

5 J. B. Birmingham Md Phila
 H. C. Rogers
 Saml. Allinson Jr N Jersey
 Benj. Coats
 friend
 Samuel Archer Phila
 Jane Gibbons
 Wm. M. Gibbons
 Miss Thea Gibbons
 & Irene C. Gibbons

28

Mr. Joshua Lippencott
Miss Anna Lippencott

- Oct. 5 L. Williams Philad.
 " W. Miller
 R. P. Keen, Waresboro, N. J.
 Martha Mellow
 Elizabeth S. Cadwallader Phila
 Mary C. Sellers "
 James B. Richards, Penna. Training School. Germantown, Pa.
 6 E. G. Passmore
 Mary Passmore Willistown Chester Co Pa
 Edward E. Jones Philad.
 Mrs. J. Pattison Amiaty Co Pa
Warner Justice Phila
 Caspar H. Straupler Philad
 Charles Adams Philad
 Catharine Morris Shipley. Philadelphia
 Edward Townsend do
- 8 John S. M^r Bridge Philadelphia
 " James Smith Bristol Bucks Co
 " Clinton Gillingham Philadelphia
 " Adin Bateon Hopedale, Milford, Mass
 " George Draper " " "
 " John Child 104 Arch St Philadelphia
 " A. E. Cook " "
 " Henry Child 104 Arch St " "
 " Ellen M Child " " "
 " James R. Pettit " " "
 " R. J. Raley Philadelphia
 " Rufus Chadwick Lafayette Ind.

Oct 8 Cha Wise

" 9 S. A. McLean Minister, Free Pres Church. Worcester

" John Trayner Chester County

" Wm S. Lover Philad^a

" Mark Haines New Jersey B. Co

" Saml Stenszey 390 Green St Philad^a

John Phillips 192 Wood St "

C. J. Child Rhode Island

H. G. Jones — Philad^a

W. B. Baird New York

10 Samuel Sellers — Philadelphia

Sarah H. Peirce

Mary W. Longstreth. Bristol

Susanna N. Canby

Anna R. Justice

R. Thompson Phila

Mary Ann Wells. Lafayette Indiana

Jane Ann Pappan Chester Co

Amelia R. Lued Philadelphia

Sarah Richie "

Ruth Anna Richie "

Gideon L. Richie "

E. W. Cavender "

Oct. 11

Harriet L. Purvis,
Came H. Wise,
Harriet Purvis, jr.
Henry Simpson

Robt. Hays

Dr Lane Gilbert 746 Broadway N York
by Gilbert

L. M. Woods Tennessee
Capt. Henry Cole

" 12

Mr W. Wilson

Washington N. D.

Leticia S. Haines Philadelphia
Emma D. N. Southworth — Georgetown D. C.
"Fear not for I am with thee
be not dismayed for I am thy God".
Scripture

Amy Peterson
Joseph Taylor Bucks County
J. B. Townsend Philad^a

13 Anne Archer New York

13 Haydock Langues Newford Del Co. Pa.
John Arpin Ireland
Morgan Thomas Philada^a
Ellen W. Lord N. York
Ellen Tam Boston

Oct. 14 Charles Ellet Jr of Philadelphia

15 Geo W Metcalf Do Do

" W. Carpenter & Sons Worcester Mass
Mary A. Shadd Chatham C. D.

16 L. Allen Philad^a

F. M. Dixon Do

Thos Baldwin "

Charles L. Sharpless do.

Caleb Hunt Do

S. G. Stevens Madryon Indiana
Thomas Coates Phil^a

Abby Kimber

Pattie Kimber

H. M. Burroughs

17 Sarah Elder Philad

Gulielma M. S. P. Jones "

John Barnard

Joseph B. Mattack Phil^a

Miriam Allen 380 George St. ab 17th. Philad

Samuel Rhoads Philad^a

W. C. G. Carby

Oct 18 ~~1848~~ Pa.

John Stock Boston Mass

Stephen Myers Albany N.Y.

Chas. Lewis Remond Salem Mass

Geo. J. Downing Providence R.I.

William C. Nell Boston Mass.

Wm + John (Albany N.Y.)

Committee of Colored Persons appointed by
the National Convention now in session to
visit Pap now Williamson by and to tender
resolutions of sympathy.

I of Honor

James A. Nelson MD

Grace Barley Thore

Jeffer. W. New York

Wm. Hazletton

Phila

Gosiah Bond

Phila

Dr. J. H. Jordan

Dayton Ohio.

Thos. A. Spearman

Phila

Henry Kimber

Chester Co. J

Thos. Emerson Jr

South Reading Mass

Sarah A. Fostt

Phila

Christiana Beard

do

John W. Elms

Phila

Washington Brown

Abington Mass

Oct 19

Charlotte Crowell
 Mary A. H. Thomas
 Naomi W Thomas Philad^a
 David Sellers Philad.^a
 Mary P. Sellers "
 Emily W Thomas
 Louisa B Dewees Norristown
 Rebecca B Thomas Phil^a
 Mary A Thomas "
 Dr Joseph Templeton Wash^g Wash^g D. C.
 Mary L Caley Phil^a
 Anna L Bickle Richmond
 Mary A Leeds N York
 Samuel Caley Phil^a

Abraham J Morrison Connecticut

20

Jehiel C. Beman Middletown Conn
 J. J. Simons Jacob R Lobb New York
 Harriet Jobman
 Cathrin Green Philadelphia
 Jas Clark of Philad^a
 John E Ferguson Richmond Virginia
 Betty Lower
 Miss Stackhouse
 Samuel Hart Philadelphia
 Mrs. E. S. Dingle Philadelphia
 W. M. Rans Philadelphia

25 ⁱⁿ Berry - Boston Salem C
 " John Deming Salem C
 Edward K. Halliwell, Chester County P
 Rebecca Swaine Chester County
 Mary Smith Philadelphia
 Anna Smith Chester County
 J. N. White, Ed. Gazette Northburgh
 Elisha Roberts Philad^a.

26 Wm. H. James, M.D. Windham C.
 Sallie G. Gains Phil^{ad}
 Miss S. Lusk Shelburne
 Joseph M. Mace Philad^a
 Eastburn Reeder Bucks Co.,
 Ellen Lyons Phil^{ad}
 Jas. B. Wright "
 Martha Wright "
 Hannah Wright "
 Sarah Lynd. Chester Co Pa
 Sarah Papsmore Chester Co Pa
 Elizabeth Papsmore Chester Co Pa
 Leg's Papsmore Do Do
 Simon Barnard Westchester
 27 Joseph S. Kildreth, Somerville Mass.
 " W. C. Harriner Philad^a
 Enoch Poolman Waverly Colerain town co Ohio
 Anna C. Dickinson Philad^a

43

Oct. 27 Hannah Taylor Philad^a
 Mrs D Lamb^s Lawrence Mass
 C. A. Lamb. " "
 S. Blanchard Philadel^a
 Wm K. Halse do
 D. & Griffitts do
 Robt Evans Gumantown Pa

29 Thomas Carson Philadelphia
 " Isaac Collins Phila^a
 " Marshall Atmore do
 " J. B. Cunningham do
 " Mrs Wiggins Mayor of Wilmington Delaware
 " Edmund Eldridge Phila
 William H. Paisley "
 William H. Thorse "
 William A. Cheyney "
 Kate Cheyney "
 Edward S. Cheyney "
 Cornelia C. Cheyney "
 Jas M. Wilton Phil^a
 Catharine J. Wilton "
 Jane Orr "
 Margaret Fulton "
 C. D. Coladay "
 Matthias Myers "
 Wm Bouvier "
 Geo J Davis "

29

Ellen Hay

Price
Salem

30

Geo. Rusk

Cha. E. Warren

Chas. H. Cheyney

Thos. P. Statesbury

W. H. Furness

John F. Gilpin

Evans Rogers

S. A. Wolf

Geo. A. Webster

Philad^a

"

"

"

"

"

"

31

L. M. Painter

Ann V. Painter

Lindley Smyth

Wm. Morris Davis

Edward Augustus Jackson

Mary J. Justice

Franklin Collins

Sarah J. Collins

Elyse Willson

Charles Beersole

David Cramm

G. W. Beertrotum

G. M. Abel

Charles Buffum

Reuben Webb

Charles C. Anderson

West Chester, Pa

do.

Philad^a

"

"

"

Mass Lynn

"

Philad^a

"

"

" "

Lynn Mass
Phil^a

Oct. 31	Punct. H. Mason	Philad.
"	John Wise	"
	Seth G. Wise	"
	Mary Grant	"
31	Andrew M. K. Storrie	"
	Richd. Richardson	"
Nov. 1	Reuben Samlison	"
"	Andrew Chadwick	Montgomery Co
"	Charles M. Walton	Phila.
	G. M. Burton	Phila.
	W. R. Stevenson	
	Isaac V. Wright	Phila.
	George Wright	Indiana
	O. K. A. Antelinson	Phila.
2	John W. Torrey	"
	Parvin Wright	Colerain Ohio
	Henry C. Wright	Colerain Ohio
	Chas. Hart home	Phila.
	John M. Wetherell	"
	Thomas Evans	"
	Mayer Arnold	"
	Robert Egee	"
	Wm. H. Egee	"
	M. B. Vinton	Bucks Coy.

Nov. 3 R. W. Parker

Woburn Mass.

54-55

LETTERS WRITTEN TO PASSMORE WILLIAMSON; ABOLITIONIST
WHILE IN PRISON

Testimony in Favor of Passmore Williamson.

As Judge Kane in imprisoning our fellow citizen Passmore Williamson for an alleged Contempt; assumes that he has not made a full, and correct return to the Writ issued by the Court. We the undersigned, who know Passmore Williamson well, desire to testify to his entire truthfulness, and to his upright Character. - And to express our firm belief that he is entirely incapable of evasion, or equivocation under any Circumstances.

We believe that if he had a fair trial such as (has been supposed prior to the action of Judge Kane, that every American Citizen was entitled to, before condemnation upon so grave a charge - that it ^{would} clearly appear to every unprejudiced mind that his return was "The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" - and entirely correct in all particulars, without evasion, or omission.

Wm. Albion

Henry Cope

John Fanning

Edw. Yarnall

Andrew M. Jones

Alfred Kennedy M.D.

J. B. Townsend

H. C. Towne

Wm. S. Ferry

Charles Yarnall

John Bacon

Thomas Evans

Thomas Earp

Benj. C. Gates

Wm. Watson

Alex. J. Derbyshire

Geo. M. Kennedy

Morris L. Hallwell

Edw. Yarnall

Geo. H. Nickham

Geo. M. Stever

Robert S. Johnson

Francis R. Cope

My
Testimony
in
favor of
Pamora Williamson

Wm Benjamin Coates

Marlboro Stokelo V

July 28th 1855

Dear Friend P. Williams,

I see by the papers there is involved in difficulty with the slaveocracy.

As I cannot reach forth and grasp thy hand as that of a friend and brother I do the next best thing in my power and offer thee my sympathy and my congratulations also, in this feeble way. In one respect I shall have but a "Job's comfort" for fifteen years ago my own experience in a similar case and all my observation and experience since, have so satisfied me that I lay it down as an axiom, the man who will hold slaves or actively abet another in receiving them, will perjure himself in every case he testifies to in courts of law. Wee may prepare thyself there fore to expect this, and from the character of Judge Kane we can easily an

tipitate his course -

Be of good cheer however with thy faith centered in "He that is for us" and the day will soon come when the persecution and inconvenience and loss thee now suffers will be accounted great gain. It is not an occasion for many words or I could write much to thee from a full heart, but I hope this brief expression of approval and regard may not be wholly unacceptable. I shall watch with anxiety for further particulars.

Our love to thy father and mother. Tell the latter her aunt, my mother is in usual health as are all of her friends here.

Thine with esteem

A. B. Noble

2
58.1.2
57
Hudson Scenery July 31st 1855

Dear Cousin

I have been wondering for some time what you were about that you had not got out in the country before this time. I have heard nothing from you this 3 or 4 weeks until last Sunday when I ^{was down at home and} asked if you had made your appearance yet, they said you had, had other business to attend to, and handed me the Village Record that told the tale, but not all of it, it stated that in a week after you were to appear in court to answer to the charge of perjury!!!!

I admire the chivalry of the scrape highly but would regret exceedingly if your Knight Errantry should land you on the "other side of Jordan". I am very anxious to know how the case has terminated. If it has gone in your favour I hope you will soon be at Hudson Scenery with your family to give the details and pick black berries. I want you to send a letter to Thordall to Moron and let me know whether you can come out or not, if you ~~can~~ send word when ~~and~~ I will try to make arrangements to meet you at the rail road I think you had better get of at Downington if you come, if you cant come to the country I will try to send Mrs W. some black berries if she would like to have them. I guess we can sell enough blackberries off the place to pay the taxes and have some left to give our friends.

P. Williamson Esq

Your affectionate Cousin
George Pyle

P.S. in your expeditions of Knight Errantry do you take Auditors for your Model?
G.P.

59
60.1.R
3
Pittsburg Aug 3^d 1855
Pasmore Williamson
Dear Friend

We arrived here the night of the 31st -
We find that the papers here and public opinion
(Unanimously) are exasperated at Judge Kane
and from all the information I can gather
there is no place west of this but stands just
as Pittsburg does. I would send thee
a Pittsburg paper but the New York Tribune
is more than a specimen.

I see Chief Justice Lewis decided that he
had no power over the case, which I feared
would be the case. If it had been for any
of the other Clerks, Judge Lewis would have decided
different, which Judge Kane knew well.

Charles Avery was just in the do^rs office when I
now write, and he talks hard. he it is who
owns the Colored School here.

There is nothing new in our business matters
I tried to get Painter to take one of the pieces of
property and we would pay him the balance in cash
but he would not. the Buaj Stock seems like a

60.1.V
60
65
Good thing, and well secured. And is paying
10 per cent.

Did Wm M. Mindeth write the article in
the North American of the 31st? It has produced some
sensation I find and I should not wonder if the
Judge could be impeached.

Whether I see is in Washington I don't think you
will be able to get hold of him now that it is
left so long. perhaps it will be better for them not
to have relied on him, but I would rather go in
myself for a while than to see such a monster
escape; The sen. he told her to to say she was
free. He is a pretty party to send to represent us
at Aguasajera,

It is amusing to hear Chas. Avery go on
about it.

Good bye
R. F. Kaley

62.1.R
H
West Chester Aug. 3. 1855

Dear Pappone,

You of course will understand that you have the sympathy and kind feelings of all your friends, and every correct thinking man in this Community - Your unjust and tyrannical incarceration is the great topic of conversation among the people, and I have heard no one yet attempt to justify Judge Rame for his extraordinary course in the case.

The affidavit made by the woman in New York, fully I presume confirms your statement of the transaction, and if she speaks truth, which I have no kind of doubt, Mr. Wheeler and Judge Stone have no ground left to stand upon.

Your father informs me that you are in good health and spirits, I hope such will continue to be the case, and that you will be enabled to bear the unjust burden that has been cast upon you, with meekness and at the same time with firmness - and let the world see that when a man acts according to the dictates of his conscience, and in violation of no law of the land, that neither the power and vindictiveness of those in power, nor the bars of a prison have any terrors for him.

If you have writing materials at hand, I will be pleased to hear from you, and let me know the particulars of the transaction so far as you had any concern or connection with it.

As to the request to your liberation from prison, your Council of Course have that in charge, in which no doubt, they will act promptly and wisely.

Pappone William Sr

Yours Sr.

W. Williams Sr

Longwood 8th Mo 1855. 5th

The Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Progressive Friends meeting at Longwood Chester County Pa, to Passmore Williamson of Philadelphia, now incarcerated in jail by Judge Kane of the Supreme Court of the United States, for alleged Contempt of Court

Dear Friend

We feel it a duty owing to our sense of justice, and as a testimony in favor of liberty, honesty, & truth, to address thee words of sympathy & consolation in thy present position knowing how stealthily the spirit of Slavery advances wherever opportunity offers, having witnessed how men in office howe in past times pondered to the slave power hoping thereby to mount to office & wealth we are not surprised to hear of this present stretch of the assumed power of the Law, by one of its highest Officers, We believe inasmuch as the woman Jane Johnson & her two children were free in every respect, before God & Man, that thou cannot be said to have at any time possession of their bodies, and therefore thy response to the writ of Habeas Corpus was true, We believe the Officers of Justice are placed in power to carry out the spirit as well as the letter of the Law, and inasmuch as we conceive Judge Kane has neglected the spirit of the law & taken opportunity to bring a truth loving citizen into confinement, by an arbitrary & uncalled for interpretation of the law, we desire to express our abhorrence of the act, and to assure thee that thy conduct meets our warmest approbation, hoping that no immediate, apparent advantage will induce thee to waver in thy course, for we feel assured that the sentiment of justice existing in the community will sustain thee & give a lesson worthy of remembrance to those in high places, who forget their duty to God by neglecting their duty towards man, we subscribe ourselves affectionately, on behalf of the meeting thy friends & the friends of the human race,

Caleb Jackson Mary Ann Jackson

Joseph A. Dugdale Ruth Dugdale

Isaac Mendenhall Dinah Mendenhall

Tho. Garrett Mary C. Wilson

Brooklyn, N.Y. August 8/56.

Passmore Williamson, Esq. Philadelphia,

Dear Sir,

Though personally unknown to you I cannot forbear tendering to you my warmest thanks for your prompt and noble & efficient efforts in behalf of the poor woman who desired to escape from slavery. I almost envy you the privilege of suffering in such a righteous cause, and wish I could relieve you occasionally by taking your place. It rejoices the friends of freedom to believe that you will not father, painful as it must be to be separated from your family.

The conduct of the Judges universally condemned, I believe, in New York. I have scarcely to know that eminent lawyers, some of them Abolition Democrats, condemn the illegal sentence course pursued by Judge Kane.

Will you accept of the little book that accompanies this?

Very truly your friend,
Ellis Tappan

Please accept with these, our
most earnest and constant sympathy.
We feel with thousands of others
that the blessing of our Father is
within the shadow of thy prison
walls, resting upon ^{the} thee
the strength with which thou
hast borne this persecution. Our
gladful blessings are also with
thee in unison with the thousands
hearts, beating for freedom and
therefore for thee, all over the
land.

M. Lewis & sister

Philadelphia Sabbath
Evening

My dear Son

Since the memorable occurrence, which you were engaged in, on board of the Steam Boat, I have felt much interested about you, & more especially so, since the interview, I & my Nephew from Ohio, had with you, last Monday afternoon

Inclined you have the Independent, published in New York, an article, in which, I approve of much, & I thought, it would not be unacceptable to you, this induced me to send it - You then see, you are not forgotten - your case is an interesting one - one in which a great principle is involved, & I earnestly pray God, that he will support you, and encourage your heart, to adhere to the right, facing not what man can do unto you - allow me to say "commit thy way unto the Lord - trust also in Him and he will bring it to pass" with great success I am your friend & well wisher
Burkitt Webb

380 George Street

August 9. 1835

Dear Pasmow

I intended to see you on Saturday last - but Saturday last I went to bed with diarrhoea, and got out only yesterday I pined myself and thought of you - sometimes with the added circumstance of a similar sleep and without my excellent nursing - But, there is no end of thinking when there is no possibility of doing -

I heard yesterday of the preliminary meeting appointed for Sanson Street Hall - I heard of it by accident -

I am not quite satisfied in my own mind about the right method of proceeding, but I incline to the idea that application ought to be made to Judge Crier in the matter - I feel satisfied that he will discharge you if once a hearing is had before him - In this belief and under the persuasion that the Federal judiciary ought not to be held accountable to public opinion for the action of one of its inferior tribunals, I am not conversed of the propriety of doing any thing else

until the ultimate judgment of the jurisdiction
now holding you is had.

Judge Osier is a lawyer, and he is in
a position of responsibility which hedges
him in. None ever he has a conscience
though it be a devil of a one.

In my own case I would make my appeal
direct to him. I would ask him for
such process as would bring the revision
of the Commitment up, and I would
then either have the end I aimed at,
or I would stand just where the
question of State jurisdiction might
get its foundation to stand upon in
all security, to the end of the fight.

Your answer to the Status Corpus stands
and will stand for the state of your
Case, and neither needs nor will
admit of any amendment or alteration
in substance, nor do I know it that
requires any in form. But the
decision of an inferior Court is properly
a matter of appeal to its ^{own} superior - and
I think it ought to be so pursued -
whatever the result may be.

I don't quite like the notion of an indignation
Meeting now - I mean until the Federal
Court has the chance to right itself by

its own action - Then I don't see why one stone of that cell of yours should be left standing on another, if Marshal Fyunkopf is to be continued in his Office of Keeper of it for your use.

But I am not possessed of all the information necessary to make up an assured judgment in your case.

Tomorrow is the day fixed for Mrs Ellen Jepsen & myself leaving for Shouderburg and with a great deal of effort we will be ready to go - I am just able to pack my carpet bag and travel - I will be back in a week or ten days - I wish I could see you but now I cannot - for I can do nothing

I sent the article of the "Book Review" signed Jurist to the trustees with a note explaining the strip of newspaper and added a few words, which the Editor published in the Tribune of the 6th inst - I had no idea that he would think of printing my letter - else I would have written it with that view and would have put my name to it - as I did to my letter, but the Editor simply added my initial at his own instance.

I must say good by
 Marian Egan

Worcester, Mass.

Aug. 10. 1855.

Dear Sir

I thank God for you.

We need many such. At one time I looked forward to being in your position, & rejoiced in it; I believe that you do also. No one engaged in what history will pronounce the greatest struggle that any Nation ever saw. May we be worthy of it.

Faithfully yours

J. H. Higginson

P.S. I enclose by note for your expenses of the colored men's, allow here for when needed.

74.1.2

Obelin Collier
 Obelin Co. Aug 11th 1853

Captn Wm Williamson

Waz, a mending Prison Phil^a.

Dear Friend:

It has been with mingled feelings of sorrow, indignation and shame that we have heard of your incarceration by Judge Kane.

By the Statute of the State of Pennsylvania by the decisions of Slaveholding Courts, and by the admissions, as we understand them, of Col. Whelan himself, the woman and her little sons were free; free not only by that Higher Law which proclaims freedom throughout every land and to all the inhabitants thereof, but even by that lower law, which has always been ready to grant not one pound of flesh, but many, to the Shylocks of Southern Shambles.

If the latest statements of the public press, so far as we have learned them, are to be relied on, you were guilty of the crime of simply informing the woman of her rights. As we understand the term "Custody," you never had her in custody, and

from the nature of the case, never could have had. She was free, and has since declared that the whole course of proceedings for her release from the illegal custody, in which her former owner was still holding her, had her entire approbation, and fulfilled her most earnest desire.

Your return to the writ was in accordance with these facts. It could not have been otherwise, and be conformed to the nature of things. And yet, because you told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, you were seized by a rathless Jeffries, who dishonours the name of Judge, and throws into a ~~filthy~~^{filthy} prison.

It is superfluous for us to say that you have our most cordial sympathy. Some of us have a personal acquaintance with yourself and your family. We think of your wife and of her grief, - of your little son who may ask why father does not come home, and of your parents, who have taught you the principles for which you are called to suffer. We do not forget that your health may be prostrated and your property

74.2.R

swept away. We do not forget that Rumor with
 his thousand tongues will be busy with your good name,
 seeking to put innocence on the rack till his fea-
 tures shall be distorted to the likeness of guilt.

But though you are a prisoner, though a venal
 press may brand you - a thief, a felon and a liar, - though
 all that our weak flesh dreads and shrinks from, may
 await you, we would not have you change places with
 your judicial persecutor, "for all the wealth that sinners
 bought and sold, have ever earned". We are grieved
 for you, we suffer with you. But we do not
 pity you. For we know that the Angel of an
 approving Conscience makes you all bright
 with his radiant presence. We know that beyond
 the Circle where Slavery has made men drink of
 the Circean cup, and has transformed them into beasts
 of prey, there is a higher and holier tribunal, whose
 solemn award will cover you with honor and
 applause. We know that Time, - that the "Conscience
 and Common Sense" of mankind, - that above all,
 the Providence of God, - have your fair fame in their

keeping. No. we do not pity you. But we have pity -
 pity mingled with feelings which the Christian heart must
 bid into silence - for men who are the creatures of a despotism
 which scorns while it makes them its tools - who have
 linked their names in inevitable association with those
 of the wretches who in the bloodiest times have demonstra-
 ted the possibilities of human depravity, in the prom-
 ise of judicial power - who are toiling at great expense
 to build their own scaffolds, and dream, meanwhile,
 that they are raising palaces for themselves and
 their children, and whose moral insanity has taken so
 fearful a type, that they deem progress a lie, and
 the retributions of Divine justice a phantasy - for
 all these we have pity - deep and inconsolable.

In the hope and belief, that you will "be found
 faithful" and that your "present affliction which
 is but for a moment" will aid in working out an ex-
 ceeding and endless good for those other captives, the
 opening of whose prison-doors we will still look for
 with unflinching faith,

We remain

Yours very truly.

J. B. Hudson

W. C. Peck.

Committee
 on behalf of the
 Faculty of Oberlin
 College.

77.1.2

Lake Superior
 on board the North Star
 11th August 1855

My dear Sir

'With astonishment & indignation have
 learned the story of your imprisonment, & how
 from this distant retreat, where I am for the
 moment, I make haste to send you my
 sympathy.

From beginning to end - from side to side, &
 in every aspect, this transaction can be regarded
 only as a clear, indubitable & utterly unmiti-
 gated outrage. The new-fangled doctrine, that
 a slave-master can voluntarily import his
 alleged slave - of course with all the re-
 volting incidents of slavery - into the Free
 States, is not more odious than it is pre-
 posterous. It is scouted by reason & disowned
 by universal jurisprudence. You were right in
 disregarding it. In stepping forward to remind
 persons claimed as slaves on this pretext
 that all such claim is baseless, you did
 a good work. It was this knowledge which
 filled them with confidence to regain their
 God-given liberty. And for this, it appears, ~~that~~
 that you have been brought before a man, who
 "dressed in a little brief authority" has cast you
 into prison. This outrage is rendered, has

outrageous by the way in which it was done.

It was perpetrated through the perversion of the great writ of Habeas Corpus. This writ of Freedom & Deliverance - which in England has often been styled the Palladium of the Constitution - which is recognized as a distinctive feature of constitutional government - which finds no place in a Despotism & which is the very master-key appointed to unlock prison-doors & let the oppressed go free - has been made in your case, by a hocus-focus without precedent, the instrument of imprisonment & oppression.

Strange & disgraceful as all this is, it must be considered as the natural fruit of Slavery. Any person, whoever he may be - whether simple citizen or magistrate - who undertakes to uphold this wrong, seems forthwith to lose his reason. He may be just, humane & decent in other things; but in the support of Slavery, he becomes unjust, inhuman & indecent - often in obvious unconsciousness of his degradation. The blindness which makes him insensible to a wrong so transcendent naturally makes him insensible to the lesser wrong by which it is maintained. What is the writ of Habeas Corpus - the Trial by Jury - the privilege of debate - or your liberty or mine in the estimation of a person who has

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77.3.4

already screwed himself to the pitch of in-
justice necessary for the vindication of an
institution, which separates parent & child
— which stamps woman as a concubine —
which shuts the gates of knowledge, & which
snatches from the weak all the hard-earned
fruits of incessant toil.

But there must be an end to these things,
& as Shakspeare found a jewel in the Turk's
head, so do I find a cheering omen even in
the injustice which has made you its
victim. There is an old saying handed down
from distant antiquity, that "Whoso the
Gods wish to destroy, they first make mad," & I
have often of late been impressed by its truth.
The Slave Oligarchy is mad & their overflow-
ing madness runs through ~~every~~ ^{every} their agents
& tools. In all that they do — especially
in the Fugitive Slave Bill & its cruel enforcement
— the Nebraska Bill & its felonious admin-
istration, & now in the imprisonment of an
unoffending citizen — ^{prejuring to believe that} there is unmistakable
evidence of that madness which precedes
a fall. Verily the day is at hand when
returning justice shall once more bear
sway. Then, among the triumphs of freedom,
will be a reckoning with unjust judges.

Meanwhile accept my congratulation on the position of responsibility & dignity which is yours. It is a privilege to suffer for Truth; & I envy not the meanness of that soul, which would hesitate to prefer your place within the stone walls of a prison to the cushioned seat of that Magistrate by whose irrationale & tyrannical edict you have been condemned.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
 with much regards,
 very faithfully yours,
 Charles Sumner

Passmore Williams Esq
 Moyamensing Prison,
 Philadelphia.

78.1.2

Fountain Green 8th mo. 13th 1855

Dear Cousin

Feeling an interest in thy welfare, I have concluded to communicate some of my wandering thoughts to thee, through this silent medium.

I was surprised at the arbitrary decision of Judge. In the first place I supposed thee knew the law and would act in accordance with it, I cannot see how he truthfully could decide as he did. Thee certainly did all the law required of thee. I feel confident he knew he sent thee to prison on false pretentions. I suppose he felt safe in doing so for there will be some trouble to impeach him. Thee will have the sympathy of many. Has thee any prospect of being released soon. I suppose thee

can bear the outrage upon thy rights better than thy Family. How is thee fixed, has thy friends the privilege of visiting thee, when they choose, can thee do any of thy former business to pass away time, How far is thee from thy family, perhaps thy friends are near enough to furnish thee with refreshments.

Catharine Balderston informed me thee was well, but Mercy and the children were not.

I have not heard from ^{thy} ^{direct} ^{since} any of you. I parted with you, did thee strike Wheeler or push him to one side Please write and give me a full statement of the affair.

we are enjoying usual health with the exception of our youngest child, he is quite poorly he is cutting teeth, Eliza has been at Fathers for some weeks, they were well at last accounts I conclude with love to thee and thine thy cousin E. Chynoweth

80.1.6

Hamilton Ohio Dec. 13th 1855

Pasmore Williamson

Respd Friend

I wrote thee a letter from Pittsburg since which time I have not heard how thou is likely to fare. I hope before this however thou has changed board. I think however that Judge Kane intends to keep thee there to pay for all the rebuke of public opinion which he is daily receiving from the whole North. By the way I went down the Ohio River on the same steam-boat with Ned. Stanton, and he says the judge has rendered himself liable for an action for damages to thee. Perhaps thou knows him he is the man that prosecutes the Whaling Budge Co. And I know of no man that could be employed to persecute Kane who would do it with more energy, and give him more trouble, and be more likely to make a fair case than he.

I was asking him about what Robnett said about thy decision at the election at Harrisburg. He said Moorhead was talking to him about it all thy decision and thought they were not used very far, but he told him they were all perfectly correct decisions, except the one about Abbott & Beaman. Trustee & that he could not judge very well of, but he said that Abbott & Beaman, jointly could give a proxy only, but Beaman could not vote alone even if there had been no proxy

But he said if Beane attended the election and then withdrew his former proxy that would leave it Abbott's single act which would be of no account. I told him that was all clear enough, but that Beane did not withdraw his former proxy. He only attempted to vote ~~on~~ on the stock himself, and that then decided that it was illegal and that then Beane left and we presented a joint proxy with all the necessary certificates of trusteeship, which being all regular and Beane making no objection to it, the admitted it as a good & valid proxy. This altered his view of the matter although he said to Moorhead that he could not judge well of such matters without being present. He said then were several very delicate points of law to decide. I believe he now thinks they were all decided just as he would have done.

He says J D Reid is an extraordinary hand to superintend a company

I find he has not the utmost confidence in that party.

I am sorry to see by some of the late Pittsburg papers that the judge still sticks to his own act. and that there is still in Prairie

Farewell off

N. F. Riley

81.1.2

Dear Friend,

Springtown August 3^o 1855

Excuse the claim which I make by appropriating in the commencement (without thy consent) a title thee may think I have no right to, but to be the Prisoner's friend is so high a calling that the honor of the thing must cancel my boldness. If it is any intrusion upon thy thoughts & time, that I send my spirit by letter to thee, thou must remember that I have so long been schooled in Abolition phrases, that to "Remember those in Bonds as bound with them" I have come at last to believe practically. This is my apology if any is needed. I will admit I want to reach thee in Prison, or rather would gain admission some how, yet I do not want to do any thing notoriously bad to get there, & think should this act take me there offending to thee, by intrusively appearing, though it may be a false step, it cannot be so uncivil an action, as that committed by the one, that hand thee. I have been afraid to let so good an opportunity slip of having a Prison Correspondent, for the honor my name returns. It does not hardly seem a fair act to try to pen thee, when thou is already penned & though it is a seeming disadvantage I take of thee, yet I know & upon the best authority, that he who suffers from a chain

81.1.5
must be an Abel man — I hope sincerely I am not committing a breach of the Peace in thus invading thy territory, for I think we should have a compact, for every thing we do, & I find mine in the interest & sympathy I have felt in thy unjustifiable restraint of that liberty, which thou so humanely assisted others to obtain. I feel assured thou does find consolation & comfort which Judge(?) Kane thought might flow from the motives, & which I know must flow from the deed, & which makes the Prison a quiet habitation for thy Conscience. The Conveyance of such deeds, or the deeds which convey such results, must be written by a divinely directed Pen, or a pen that certainly has a divine Point, for has not the most sacred of property been conveyed by it, & grants of Real Estate, homes made over on the free soil of the North to the now happy emigrants? I think thy proceedings could not have better grounds.

Before I close I must express my deep regret of the inconvenience & discomfort thou is subjected to, by the tyrannical conduct of Judge Kane, though ~~of~~ the position thou occupies morally, thou needs no sympathisers. Physical comfort is something to be deprived of at this warm season of the ^{year} & the deprivations of Home enjoyments is always a source

of feeling, but every deprivation that is a sacrifice to a noble deed, is robbed of its keenest sting; and is not this, (the interruption of thy family circle, by the knowledge, that she who makes thy home a magnet, can appreciate the cause which separates you,) thus ^{robbed} ~~satisfied~~? It is something further to know over, I hope, for a very short time, & much for her to rejoice over always. I think the Judge's decision must be more oppressive to him, than the weather & thy cell, can be to thee, & that is supposing a pretty hot place, even now, for 'His Honor' and as an old Popish writer once said of the Protestants & Purgatory that they may "go further & fare worse". If he is going to his mind & his deserts, I am sure he is on the right road, & it is something to say he is ever right. I have delayed writing to thee, for many days, owing to sickness in our family, but cannot say I hope this will find thee in Prison, though I have coveted the honor of writing to thee there, if it should, let it bear the my daily remembrance, my sincere interest, my thorough approbation, with many wishes for thy speedy release. I have wished very much this last week to go & see thee, but have been prevented by the sickness of several in family, I have felt very much for her lonely situation & the anxious

mind she carries, about thee, yet when such feelings
move me, they subside immediately with the thought,
that she must feel more pride, than sorrow, & can rejoice
more than repine —

Sincerely thy or your friend
R. J. Selles

To Passmore Williamson

Weymouth



14 82
821-R

Suspension Bridge N. Y.
August 14 1833

Dear Friend

Be steadfast, the right is yours, and
God will protect the right - I wish
I could share your deprivations, but
your strong heart will support you, and
the great reward will be yours -

Yours truly,

H. P. Wettest

Mattie Griffith, of the City of Louisville, Ky.
 Single woman, - to free, manumit & liberate all the slaves
 of which I now have or of which I may be possessed.

George W. Triplett, of Owensburg, Ky. Cassius M. Clay
 & John C. Fee the Executors

- 1 Sallie
- 2 Henderson
- 3 Holton
- 4 Albert
- 5 George.
- 6 Charles.

25
25.1.R
17
Madi Aug 14 1855.

Friend William

I like you. I send you
a card you today a paper
The Boston Tribune - in it you
will see my work. In the
Tribune of this city tomorrow
you will see it repeated with
an Extract from Springfield Rep.
Paper - I can find
from Lewis with you fully
to print my copy to you - If
you want funds and a debate
they mean to help you. I mean
the Improvement of Law. by
Congress - you can see that -
Do not yield - You have friends
you better know of - you shall know
me soon

86.1.R

augis leas oldham Juncan on

leas oldham augis the 2^d / 8 5 5
 Mr pasmore williamson i want
 to have from you and i feel on
 esey and true eld in mind at this
 time i can have nothen much
 only By news papers i have
 Red the tribune of new york
 which gvs in a Count of judg pans
 fals a State ment and the tironical
 Coarce that I he has pursde
 With you i have talpt with money
 men a Bought this and all that i
 have talpt with Sayer that you
 Wer Right of in forming the peopel
 of thir Rights i have under stood
 that the peopel is free and was
 as soon as they com in the state
 of pensly vania i hope that judg
 Speare will find him self
 in Much Difficulty Be for he
 gets through

philladelphia has got her
 Best Man in prison
 which is in genirly as say
 By the publice will either
 humble or Bend it
 No save holder
 & leas oldham

86.1.R

89.1.2

SOLE MASS

At a Mass Meeting held at the Phila. Institute Aug. 20th 1855 The following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas: Through the meanness and Cupidity of a portion of the Officers of the law, we are compelled to witness the humiliating spectacle of the incarceration of one of our most respectable and quiet Citizens without trial, shut out from the protection of law, and that for standing in defence of the laws of the State.

Resolved therefore: That the protracted incarceration of Passmore Williamson is another evidence of the demoralizing influence of Slavery and its tendency to pervert all that is honest, just and true to the subserviency of the basest of vices, and contempt of law.

Resolved That we rejoice to hear that the manly spirit of Passmore Williamson is yet undaunted.

Resolved: That the action of those men who resisted Jane Johnson and her children to their freedom and aided them in their escape out of this so called "Land of the Free" and "Home of the Brave" meets with our hearty approval.

Resolved: That we will assist those who by their noble conduct, find themselves in the hands of the law.

Resolved: That Samuel Williams, Francis A. Suterste and Eugene Baptist be a Committee to present these resolutions Mr. Williamson

gether to yet. Were I a strong man
in person or in pocket thee should not
want for more decided evidence of my
sympathy than mere words, and I almost
hope yet that the day will come when
my puny arm will be of service in the
glorious cause. The whole world has
not all gone to sleep, (and I mention this
for thy encouragement, if thee is still lying
in jail,) last week I attended a great
Republican Convention to nominate State
officers held in Portland; and I never was
at a more enthusiastic or interesting
gathering. Maine assembled there in her
might. From Moose-head Lake and the
Androscoggin came her hardy mountaineers
and old Bangor, Belfast and Eastport
sent their delegations of thousands. Every train
of cars disgorged a multitude at the various
depots, and all swarmed in eager haste to
vicinity of the City Hall where the conven-
tion was held. I thought I could perceive

91.2.R

91.1.R

1855

Wilmington Aug 21/55

Passmore Williamson

Esteemed Friend

Enclosed you will find a letter addressed you by a few friends of this city. It was designed for publication, but I found I could not get signers in sufficient number, objection was made to the language used, so I have drawn up a letter of milder form to which I hope to get many signers, and have it published in one of our papers. Your case is exciting a good deal of interest and doing much good.

Very truly Your friend
Edw Webb

or imprisonment - we, the express our duty altho has consign- This outrage our own attack sustained etc of the we will to resist to force People of to John H owner of at to him

ment, a undersign sympathy vence of ed you upon yo liberties, deserves.

then is Union, ourselves to every the inst another.

Wheeler certain by his act of wronging such persons, into Pennsylvania: they then became Freemen, and if you have committed any offence against them, or in connexion with them, then the Criminal Courts of your own State are the proper

Wilmington Aug. 18th 1853

To Papmore Williamson Esq.

Dear Sir. Having heard of your imprisonment, and the circumstances attending it:—we, the undersigned citizens of Delaware, wish to express our sympathy for your suffering, and our hearty abhorrence of that Judicial Tyranny which has consigned you to a Dungeon. We feel that this outrage upon your person, is an attack upon our own liberties, and to be resisted as such an attack deserves.

If the decision of Judge Kane is sustained—then is Slavery established in every State of the Union, not merely African Slavery, but we will ourselves be Slaves.— We pledge ourselves to resist to every extremity this scandalous attempt to force the institutions of one State upon the People of another.— All the privileges accorded to John H. Wheeler in Slave holding Territory;—as the owner of certain persons:— were forfeited and lost to him by his act of bringing such persons, into Pennsylvania: they then became Freemen, and if you have committed any offence against them, or in connexion with them, then the Criminal Courts of your own State are the proper

Tribunals to punish you, and not the Court of Judge Kane. As the officious Servant of the Peculiar Institution, this Slave catching Judge may perhaps possess some peculiar privileges: but where there were no Slaves to catch, (as in this case) we submit, that these privileges can avail him nothing, and that his decision must stand upon its own merits, (if such can be discovered), or fall before the scorn of Freemen who know their own Rights, and are determined to maintain them.

Judge Kane has taken his position among that band of Conspirators now engaged in efforts to compass their Country's ruin, by forcing the Institution of Slavery on all those parts of it yet happily free; - we trust and believe that ~~all~~ such traitorous schemes are doomed to be defeated; you have the honor of defending an important Citadel of Freedom; we know that you will stand firm for the sake of your own Conscience, yet we would add to this, our sincere admiration for the course you have taken, and our best wishes for the final result.

Yours &c
 Isaac Flint
 Thos. Garrett

Respectfully Your Friends
 Wm. Webb
 W. C. Burleigh
 Edw. Webb

Dublin N.H., 21 Aug. 1858.

Papmore William Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your noble action
 & the wicked treatment in name for it give me
 the right to address ^{you} ~~my~~ I am in entire Stran-
 ger. I cannot let bear expressing to you my
 admiration for your conduct, & the hope that
 you will continue faithful & undaunted in
 the path which the infernal Court con-
 demns you to. I wish I could bear a
 part of the suffering & to relieve you from
 a little of that pain. But I can only send
 you an expression of my heartfelt sympathy
 & thanks for your noble mention. I suppose
 there must be much more imprisonment &
 other judicial outrage than the people are
 warranted for to sleep. May God's blessing
 be upon ^{you} ~~your~~ the wish & prayer of

Yours sincerely
 Thos. P. Pickers.

95

25.1.A

Fourth Anniversary of the Jerry Rescue.

THE first day of October, 1855, the 4th Anniversary of the memorable Jerry Rescue, is at hand. The spirit that defied oppression, and scorned as a filthy rag the enactment of a law defying Congress intended to give oppression power and dignity, we thank Heaven, is an embodiment at Syracuse. Its proportions are expanding in contempt of political limits and political parties. As the organ of such embodiment, we appeal to our bold countrymen, and to the world, to confess its legitimacy, justice, and authority. Therefore we call them to be at Syracuse the 1st of October next, at 10 o'clock A. M., to honor the first successful and glorious strike, which, in the United States, rescued an outraged slave and set him free. Yea, even from the clutches of the Judge and the Marshal, despite the irons in which they bound him, and the deluded posse they employed to keep him bound. And if they cannot then and there meet, let them send a cheering expression of their sympathies.

Truth grows, and the spirit that rescued Jerry by the boldest resistance to iniquitous power ever made in this country, grows, because it is a true spirit. In the light and heat of it, how is that other, the non-resistant spirit, melting down, and the delusion vanishing away! It was a brave decision, that the Constitution was made to establish liberty, and that justice is the only basis of law which the people in the highest function of judicial power will acknowledge, say politicians and debauched Judges what they may. In the light and heat of that transaction, also, how are the passions and sentiments of the people conforming! Who now would attempt to arrest a fugitive slave at Syracuse? How rapidly diminish the number of those who are deluded by the felon sentiment that slavery is entrenched and protected in the Constitution! How rapidly diminish the number of those who admit the integrity of the scoundrel Judges who give slavery an assylum in that instrument, in scorn of its obvious terms

and intents, and in dishonor of its origin and cotemporary history. And how clearly in the light of the Fugitive Act, the Nebraska Act, and the still more astounding attempt to compel slavery in Kansas, does the Slave Power declare that the only issue it will accept, is, the legality of slavery anywhere and everywhere—and that the reliable force on its part to that end, is, not 'he Constitution and laws, but the force of arms!

We are not for strife—we are for peace. And because we are peace men, we acknowledge not the claims of slavery any where, or at any time; because slavery, everywhere and at all times, is war upon the constitution and laws made for the common defense and general welfare, war upon human nature itself. Therefore, we give notice, at Syracuse, that when it comes to us with its claims, when it crosses our track, or attempts to kidnap our citizens, (we care not for the forms,) we shall meet it as the enemy of human nature, the enemy of the constitution and laws—the enemy indeed of the entire plan and providence of Jehovah, which no Congress or Court or other despot can instal over the rights of the people of this or any other state. He is a poor observer who does not see that this issue, made at Syracuse five years ago, is fast coming to be the issue the country over. Come up to our Anniversary then, and help unite the voice and arms of the people into one grand *Habeas Corpus* which shall give liberty to every slave, open the prison door of every Passmore Williamson, and send every villainous Judge, whether he be Kane or McLane, cowering into retirement, imprisonment or infamy.

JOHN THOMAS,
JAMES FULLER,
LUCIUS C. MATLACK,
T. G. WHITE,
MONTGOMERY MERRICK.

Syracuse, Aug. 8, 1855. *Committee.*

Syracuse Aug 23. 1855

Papson Williamson Esq

Dear Sir

Allow me to call your attention to annexed circular and also to invite you to participate with us in celebrating the Rescue of Jerry from the hands of his officious Kidnappers - hoping that you will be instructed to liberty and unfulfills in time to enable you to join us at the celebration or that you will save the cause of Freedom by at least by addressing us a letter to be read on the occasion - I beg to recommend one who remembers the bond as bonded with them and yours truly

James Fuller Secy
 Sec of Com

96.1.2



Alliance, O. August 26th, 1855

The members of the Western Anti-Slavery Society, with other friends of freedom attending its thirteenth anniversary, at Alliance, Stark Co. O. to Passmore Williamson, in Moyamensing prison, Philadelphia.

Fellow worker in the cause of humanity:—

Three thousand of us have convened on this sabbath day to labor for the redemption of our oppressed brethren, to strive to drive slavery from our midst, and secure freedom to every inhabitant of the land. From the grove in which we have assembled, we would send to you a voice, not of sympathy alone, but of warm approval, of high admiration.

We are aware that you are imprisoned for no violation of law, either human or divine, but simply to gratify the slave power, which sought to punish manly honesty and true independence with bolts and bars. Your incarceration has taught, and is teaching the American people that there is no safety for their own freedom while the slave power rules — that while it is in the ascendancy, law will be prostituted to do its bidding, and in the name of justice the grossest enormities perpetrated.

It is not often that to any one is presented such an opportunity for a world-wide testimony against judicial wrong as is seen in your case; and we rejoice to believe that you are equal to its demands, and that Judge Kane has found in your consistent firmness an instance of fortitude as unexpected as it is unwelcome.

The press has borne to all parts of the civilized world a record of the particulars which led to your imprisonment; they

will be discussed among the more enlightened portions of the European people, as well as among the less intelligent; they are fit subjects of consideration for prince and peasant; they interest both liberal and conservative.

Judge Kane imprisoned you without trial, for an alledged contempt of court. From his decision you have appealed to the great Court of Humanity, to the common instincts of the people. Your appeal has been entertained, and Judge Kane is himself now on trial before the world for contempt of justice, of truth, and of right. Sooner or later an impartial verdict will be rendered, which shall be as terrible as was that which caused the power to pass from the hands of Belshazzar. For that verdict, and for that time, you can well afford to wait.

With a belief that yours is a courage not to be daunted by prison bars, a determination that is superior to judicial persecution, we remain your friends, and hearty approvers.

On behalf of the assembly aforesaid
A Brooke, President.

Benj. S. Jones, Recording Secretary.

99.1.2

Winn, O. August 26, 1855.

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty to write you a few lines, although a stranger, to assure you of the deep interest here felt for your welfare. I hope Sir your health is as good and strong as your heart; and that you will not long be left subject to the petty despotism which our degraded and usurped authority has so offensively, & insultingly, towards you. I know your own reflections upon it have already rendered it unnecessary for me to assure you that the good act of yours, by which three lives were saved from eternal slavery, will always be a green oasis of life on which your eye, when ^{reverted} turned to it in after time, will rest with the pure pleasure of self-approbation.

When the memory of Julep Kean shall be mentioned as is now that of a Jeffins, the blessings of them ready to perish, of their children, and their children's children, in even a remote future, will surely rest upon you, and other brave souls who have dared to be joined to the friendless. "For thou wilt still the poor man's stay, the poor man's heart, the poor man's hand; And all the oppressed who wanted strength, shall thine at their command" - you recall the saying of the Scottish Chieftain - and his generosity & courage stamped immortality upon his name.

You have the sympathy & highest respect
of good men & true in this vicinity
I know you do not need this told you by
letter, the press daily informs you of this fact
but I thought Sir, it might not be unaccept-
able news from a stranger a better telling
you how brave & true men who have never
seen you honor you & esteem you for the
good deed of kindness you so generously did

I do not suppose it can be possible that
the Supreme Court of your State can fail to set
you at liberty immediately; nor that the
public opinion of your State as well as this shall
fail to inflict a withering rebuke upon the conduct
of Judge Ham.

I am glad to see in
your case as well as upon some other oc-
casions recently the attention of the public
called by the press to the startling fact of the
Federal judiciary tending constantly to
encroach upon the State judiciary by
exercising, & by sanctioning the exercise on the
part of the Federal Congress of undelimited powers

I had occasion immediately after the passage
of the Fugitive Slave law of 1850 when in the legislature
of this State to look at this subject; and I send you
a ~~document~~ ^{report} which defectively reported arguments & the
^{upon the subject} ~~views~~ in support of certain resolutions I presented
in the Senate of this State at that time. There may
possibly be some material on the subject of some

interest to one who has not already had
occasion to investigate the subject of
the Constitutional powers of Congress.

With sentiments of the highest
respect and esteem, I subscribe myself

Very truly yours.

M. Suttiff.

Papmore Williamson, Esq.
Philadelphia
120-

New York Aug 28/55.

Mr Passmore Williamson

Sir

The author of the paper enclosed Mr Dreyer 195 Broadway at your request will go to Philadelphia and relieve you from imprisonment in 48 hours after he arrives here as he says

Yours Resply

Chas Cleveland
45-Williams St
N.Y.

CASE OF PASSMORE WILLIAMSON.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune:

Sir: So deeply rooted in the hearts of all good men is the liberty element, the freedom sentiment, that any restraint of our citizens in the enjoyment and exercise of their inalienable rights—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—never fails to arouse a spirit of inquiry into the cause and examination into the lawfulness and justice of such restraint. To such an extent has this great sentiment, this ennobling element, been active among us, that within a brief period, and still fresh in the memory of all, an officer of the U. S. Navy received the unbounded applause of the public, and finally the honorable awards of his Government, for his fearless boldness in the enlargement from imprisonment, while on the distant shores of the Mediterranean, of the person of a foreigner not then fully entitled to the immunities of American citizenship. The enchantment which distance always lends to the beholder, besides the prestige of arms, in the example referred to, no doubt contributed much to the enthusiasm manifested. These remarks, however, en passant, the design of this paper is to inquire whether there is in the law of the land any remedy for the imprisonment in the City of Philadelphia of an American citizen, which shall operate an immediate discharge and liberation from the custody of the United States Marshal. The individual referred to is the Mr. Williamson, confined there for an alleged contempt of court, under commitment by the United States District Judge, KANE.

It will, therefore, be no part of this inquiry to examine whether the Federal Judge had the rightful authority to imprison in this case. Our mind is clear of doubt on that subject, and if the remedies which we shall here present shall be applied by the prisoner against that functionary, the event will show his act to be without the pale of the law, and himself a proper subject for its amendments. The ready trial at common law which the proposed writ will bring to the prisoner, cannot fail to stamp on the individual whose dignity has so much suffered in the premises, as to call for such an example as the incarceration of Mr. Williamson, a mark more indelible than that which sacred history records was placed by the hand of the Almighty on one Cain, who did not imprison but kill his brother. Nor will it be necessary to inquire into the refusal of a State Judge to give the prisoner relief under the writ of habeas corpus, though it was manifest to him that the act complained of had precedent only in times and places of barbarity, and would cause a Star Chamber suit

From The Panama Herald, July 21.
The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamer
Valdivia, Capt. F. O. Crow, arrived yesterday
ing from the South Coast. She brings twenty
4,923
10,500
9,879
5,000
14,000
52,000
\$5,719

In Europe.
for, if not to send some to California or the
to come to supply all demands this side the
Doubtless Chili will raise grain enough the
of the sowing and planting has been done
Crops look well at present, although but
and herds at home.
interests of greater magnitude among her
Araucania either, until she is able to attend
as to the questions of domain in Patagonia, or
charity always begins; and she need not be trou
that Chili has enough to do nearer home, wh
inclined to doubt. At any rate, it seems to
relinquished their claims, which I am very m
whom Cape Horn belongs, if the penguins h
tempt to decide at present this question at
as is alleged, ever since that time. I shall not
Punta Arenas in 1843, which she has maintain
is in possession, having planted a penal colony
lands, always so understood it. Chili, howev
the Emperor, Charles V. of Spain and Nel
of which Mendoza is head and front; and t
of right, ought to be in the good Province of C
clonal printed there puts it, that they are,
they of right belong to her. And so the Cons
with those Austral regions of rains and clou
tains, and connected by the crests of the Ste
maintains that as she is isolated beyond the m
Los Andes. Mendoza, with good spunk, ste
the Argentine Republic, across the Cordill
del Fuero and Cape Horn belong to Chili o
the grave question as to whether Patagonia, T
I observe this country papers still discuss
coast from this port.

portion of the interior, and be shipped down
find a market for their products throughout ev
cessible and extensive coal-field beyond would th
or near Concepcion, would be reached; and the
would elapse before the rich valley of the Biobio
Of course should this road be made, not many ye
nearly cover the prime expenses of the enterpr
priced if the estimated cost of \$2,000,000 wo
size to be bridged, so that I should not be e
in the way of grades, and but few streams of m
distance very inconsiderable, no obstacles exist
to me every way feasible, and the cost for such

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune:

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But to answer or enter upon these topics in this place, would be foreign to our purpose. Now we inquire why is it that a respectable citizen, in his own city, at home, among numerous and wealthy friends, surrounded by men of similar faith and principles to his own, may not have their aid, sympathy, counsel? And we proceed without further delay to the main question before us for our examination. *Is there known to the law any remedy which can be applied to the immediate liberation of Passmore Williamson from the custody of the United States Marshal?* The writ of habeas corpus has been tried, and he is still a prisoner; from day to day he forcibly feels the fiat of the Federal functionary,

"—— Tantaenæ animis cœlestibus iræ!"

But the writ *de homine replegiando* has not been tried, and why? It is a Common Law writ, and may be used to-day in all the States of this Confederacy where their Constitutions, Bill of Rights, and laws have adopted the usages and customs of the English law, in all cases of imprisonment, "*nisi captus est per speciale preceptum nostrum, vel capitalis justitiam nostri vel pro morte hominis, foresta nostra, vel pro aliquo vel pro alio recto, quare secundum consuetudinem Angliæ non sit replegiabilis.*" The exceptions are seen in this quotation. It is well known that the worthy prisoner of the Philadelphia Federal judiciary is not taken into custody by the special precept of the people of the State of Pennsylvania, or by the special order of the Chief Justice of the State, or held for the death of man, &c., &c., or kept in jail for any other reason by which, according to the custom of England, he is not repleviable. Now, what hinders the immediate use of this writ? Its power, and force, and presence are equal to the exigency. Why not forthwith place it in the hands of the Sheriff of the City and County of Philadelphia? In the language of Blackstone: "the writ *de homine replegiando* lies to replevy a man out of prison or out of the custody of any private person, upon giving security to the Sheriff that the man shall be forthcoming to answer any charge against him."

The use of the writ *de homine replegiando* must always liberate in the cases not excepted, but it should not be forgotten that the cause of the imprisonment will be the subject of inquiry in the Court into which it is returnable, and it may be that the trial will result in the defeat of the plaintiff, but it secures to him the sacred right of *trial by jury*. This remedy of the common law is attended with so much inconvenience and difficulty in procuring the necessary bail to the sheriff for the redelivery of the prisoner, if on the trial by the jury, he should fail in his case, that its infrequent use need not surprise any one. To this cause, more than to any other perhaps, may be attributed its non-user—why it has nearly gone into desuetude. Sheriffs are the sole judges in such cases of the amount of bail to be given; and they are not usually disposed to accept a small sum, or men of small means. The *habeas corpus*, on the contrary, is not thus trammelled, and besides, in some of the States, its allowance to all prisoners by the judge is provided for under a heavy penalty of refusal to grant it. It is easy to see, there-

fore, why the writ *de homine replegiando* is not so great a safeguard to the citizen. He must be able in all cases of its use to satisfy the demands of the Sheriff; and that officer many times will not stop much short of the prohibition, "excessive bail shall not be required." Were it not for this feature of that writ and remedy, it would be adequate to the utter destruction of every vestige of power and authority of all and singular the Commissioners under the detestable Fugitive Slave Act—themselves little less despicable than the Act itself, and esteemed among us much as we esteem the memory of their great ancestors, Jack Ketch and the knights of the whipping-post and branding-iron. Let this remedy be brought into use. It is older than the Federal Government. It never was impaired, nor can it be, by any overreaching and usurping act of its legislative, judicial or executive departments. The constitution is an eternal barrier, though the courts have failed in these degenerate days to declare judgment. This charter of government never gave to Congress any the least power to limit or legislate away this great remedy of the Common Law. "The Constitution of the United States contains no reference to a common-law authority. Every power in the Constitution was matter of definite and positive grant," saith Chancellor Kent.

The remedy which we have proposed by the use of the writ *de homine replegiando* is the inheritance of all the States, at least, of those existing prior to the establishment of the General Government, by virtue of their birth under the Common Law of England. And if it ever was a question of birthright it has been fully settled by legislative adoption. We quote again from Kent: "The Common Law, as far as it is applicable to our situation and Government, has been recognized and adopted, as one entire system, by the Constitutions of Massachusetts, New-York, New-Jersey and Maryland. It has been assumed or declared by statute, with the like modifications, as the law of the land, in every State."

On an examination of the Constitution, Declaration of Rights and Laws of Pennsylvania, abundant authorities present themselves for the use of this Common Law remedy, the writ of *De homine Replegiando*, in any Court of Common Law jurisdiction in that Commonwealth. We quote: "Each and every one of the laws or Acts of General Assembly that were in force and binding on the inhabitants of said Province on the 14th day of May last shall be in force and binding on the inhabitants of this State from and after the 10th day of February next as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as if the said laws and each of them had been made or enacted by this General Assembly; * * * and the Common Law and such of the statute laws of England, as have heretofore been in force in the said Province, except as is hereafter expected." Passed 28th January 1777. (1 Sm. L. p. 429.) "No exception will be found to the full and absolute adoption and use of the Common Law remedy presented in this paper, by way of repeal, limitation or modification.

Again: "All courts shall be open, and every man for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by *due course of law*, and right and justice administered, without sale, denial or delay." (Art. 9. Dec. of Rights.) "Trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the rights thereof remain inviolate." (Art. 6. Dec. of Rights.) Thus it appears that the axis of the common law rests upon the State of Pennsylvania, and is a sure shield to all its inhabitants. The common law is an overshadowing presence, and like the pillar of fire by night and of cloud by day to the men of Israel, it shall conduct man safely on in the pathway of life. In these days of Federal usurpations we feel its significance, and bless God for its gift. It is well worthy of the high encomium passed upon it by *Du Pontcau*: "We live in the midst of the common law, we inhale it at every breath, imbibe it at every pore; we meet with it when we wake and when we lay down to sleep, when we travel and when we stay at home; and it is interwoven with the every idiom that we speak; and we cannot learn another system of laws without learning, at the same time, another language."

In conclusion—we cannot see why Mr. Williamson may not be set at liberty forthwith. If he is guilty of a contempt of Court, the discussion of which we have avoided in this article for want of room, he will take nothing by this writ, if it shall be issued in his behalf. The matter with which he stands charged by Judge A. is one which presents nice questions of law, and will not fail to interest all who are accustomed to hold sacred the rights of persons.

Passmore Williamson Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have somewhat delayed writing you fearing that you would be overwhelmed with messages from others in positions that would give a deeper unction to their tokens of sympathy, never the less I cannot but add also my testimony, as a private individual and as an acquaintance, to the sorrow I feel that the rights of a fellowman should be so invaded for doing that which is right in the sight of God and man, except the latter be blinded by the hope of reward, from submitting to the slave power which so humbles us as a people in the sight of the nations of the earth, and would fetter us also, soul and body, as they now do the poor slave, we might truly cry out like the Prophet, as he viewed the wickedness of Israel, and adding his denunciations, 'O earth, earth, earth, hear ye the word of the Lord.'

We often ask ourselves, what can we do to assist in overcoming this fearful and apparently increasing evil, the execution of one man appears but a slight barrier, and yet I may say truly that we have seen in your case what may be done, for most assuredly the foundations of our very natures are disturbed by the wrong committed against you, it causes the wave of public opinion to grow mightier, and I do hope, and trust that each succeeding wrong inflicted by slave power, if so be we must have such inflictions, will add to the increasing elements whereby this evil may be swept from our borders.

But I must desist for I have limited myself lest I infringe on your time and patience, besides language would fail to convey to you my

feelings on this subject - and yet in a measure I rejoice that you are able to take the position you have, and be willing to endure in a righteous cause, and I further trust you will be sustained in the deprivations of the society (to whom I would also convey my regards) of your companion, and the comforts of home. Trusting that your example will be promotive of the pure cause of freedom and that the great Disposer of all events will order it for the elevation of the down trodden of the earth, having promised to hear the "sighing of the prisoner" and to let the oppressed go free" I remain

Yours truly

W. S. Edmands.

Boston Aug. 28, 1855

106, 1, 2

Strictly Private ~~V. Person~~

New York Aug 30. 1855

Pasmore Williamson

Sir. — In common with yourself I have been the victim of the persecution of a District Judge of the United States — and but for the wealth which enabled me to employ counsel for my defence should have been immolated upon the altar of corrupt and unprincipled men holding power. — and before Heaven, I strived to labour and toil with its blessing to strive to do that which should tend to relieve others from similar suffering — I think the time has come for my action or cooperation with others who do act — and altho — The circuit Judge who presides in your district — is to decide much which relates to me & my affairs — and might be

he induced to approp me. yet - I
 cannot refrain from sympathizing
 with you - privately - and until I am
 seated in greater power than at
 present - I can only act privately -
 but - act I will - and I have
 frequently of late been impressed
 with the Idea that I ought - contribute
of my limited means - to all such
actions as will vindicate your Honor
as a man. your rights as a Citizen
 and tend to promote liberty - and
 protect its lovers - I am no abolitionist
 and do not feel actuated by the
 feelings of many. but I have ever
 laboured in my own defence when
 my rights were invaded and mean
 to do so, while I live. to the extent
 of my power. and thus practically
 indicate my faith - and principles -

I cannot dispel from my mind
 the Idea that you have been placed
 in your present position - on the

106.2.R

order of Gods Providence - for a great
 purpose. high above the common ken
 of depraved and meretricious men. - and
 that your reward will come not
 only in this life but the life to
 come. - So my friend and brother -
 be calm, (firm, you have been) be
 cheerful and happy. - for good men
 and angels. Smile upon you and
 will aid in protecting you just -
 so far as you do right - according
 to the light within you - The object
 I had in view was simply to tell
 you to look to me for Five Hundred
 Dollars - towards the Expenses of
 your complete Vindication, and the
 fullest vindication of the Laws of the
 Land which all should abide by -
 whether occupying the position of a
 private citizen or official or judicial
 position - I view the disregard of them
 the most heinous of all offences - when
~~perpetrated~~ ^{perpetrated} under pretence of their execution -
 by this Judicial power.

Wm. W. Day
 Boston, 11. Day

104.1.R

Blue Rock, C. Aug. 30/57.
 Passmore Williamson, Esq.
 Philadelphia.
 Dear Sir,

I have read with concern a number of articles concerning your unjust imprisonment, and have deeply sympathised with you and your loving companion, from whom you have been so inhumanly separated.

Though I never saw you but once, and that but for a few minutes — which you will recall when I relate the circumstance — yet the account of your imprisonment shocked me as if you had been ^{one} of my most intimate friends and acquaintances.

You recollect a person calling at your residence one evening last Spring, and introducing himself as a grandson of Lydia Sanner's — he it is who writes you — I will never

189.1.1.1
forget that short interview, and the favorable impressions left on my mind, by the goodness and kindness manifested by you and Mrs. Williamson, especially will this be the case owing to your since having become a martyr to the cause of human kindness.

It would be very gratifying to me to see a statement, direct from you, of your present circumstances, prospect &c. for I have, as yet, seen no account in regard to how your petition has been received.

Grandmother and the rest of the family are in usual health. — I had a letter from your old grandmother this summer, with a large page written with her own hand. She is certainly a very remarkable woman.

At the request of a large number of friends in an adjoining County, I have consented to commence conducting a newspaper for them about the 20th of next month — it is to be independent on

all subjects. If I thought it would not be too great an intrusion on your generosity in diverting your attention from weightier matters, I would solicit an occasional article from your pen; for to have a Philadelphia ^{correspondent} would add much to the interest of its pages, and especially ~~from~~ one who is now so world-wide known as you.

I will send you a copy of the paper on its issue.

With compliments to Mrs. Williamson, and earnest wishes that you may soon be restored to her, if you have not before this been discharged, I subscribe myself

Your friend,

Very respectfully,
Ellis Ballou.

P.S. My P.O. address hereafter
will be - Malta
Morgan Co.
C.

Pittsburg Sept. 1, 1855.

To

Wesmore Williamson Esq.
Philadelphia,

Dear Sir,

Looking over some of my Father's papers to day I found a certificate of his membership of "The Pennsylvania" "Society for promoting the abolition of Slavery, the" "relief of free Negroes unlawfully held in bondage," "and for improving the condition of the African" "race", dated Philadelphia 7th mo. 12th 1794 and signed by Jam: Pemberton Pres. and Jas. McFee and James Todd Secretaries. My Father removed from Philadelphia to Pittsburg in 1798 and died in 1811.

The sight of this document reminded me that I had neglected to do what I had

intended immediately on learning that you had been most unrighteously and as I think unlawfully deprived of your liberty. My excuse is that I have suffered personal ill health and a severe domestic bereavement.

I hope you are not discouraged. Some such display of wretched tyranny on the part of a Federal Judge and of loathsome servility on the part of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania was perhaps necessary to awaken the people of this state to the startling truth that the slaveocracy will never rest till it shall have destroyed all freedom in the yet nominally free states.

I cannot say that it is to be regretted that you have been the chosen victim. It is no mean honor that you shall be the medium through which the freedom of Pennsylvania shall yet be vindicated.

110.2.P

Believe me when I say that I would far rather share with you your imprisonment than have a seat on the bench with the judge who consigned you to prison or with the miserable set of Supreme judges who refuse to order your liberation. They will all have their reward in the detestation of all honest men.

That we are cursed in Pennsylvania with a venal judiciary I have long believed - that they are so debased as has been demonstrated in your case I did not imagine.

This monstrous wrong will yet be righted. Your time is coming. Be patient - be firm, and these corrupt and wicked men will ere long see the day that in which they dared to deny the writ of habeas corpus to a freeman of Pennsylvania unlawfully deprived

of his liberty.

With great respect I am

Very truly

Yours

Jos. P. Gazzam

113.1.R

Philad: Sept 4th 1853

Esteemed Friend

If you had perused the "Log of Ancient Rome" sufficiently and could send it up conveniently I would be obliged. I am a pretty close prisoner myself this week on account of the absence of my boy, therefore I should have called upon thee again. John & Phillips and Charles Mart was to go with me on the next visit but I hope thee will still be Hales Corporal out of the grasp of Master Kane (who I should think by this time would be as glad of it as any other individual). Before I have the opportunity to visit them.

At our Republican Convention the other evening at the County Court House every allusion to thee was received with intense interest and loud applause and nine cheers were given for the Prisoner on Moyamensing. Didn't thee hear them? The only paper I have seen that reported the cheers was the Times.

Brother Tom has had a delicious time as jurymen in the Wheeler case. Eight of the jurymen



would have convicted all the defendants in toto and two would have gone over to the right had it not been for the remaining two. They would have stood out to the last extremity. Their determination and oratory finally triumphed so far as to secure the verdict which they had heard. The two nights were spent in damning the niggers and abolitionists, laughing, smoking, sleeping or trying to sleep on the floor and so forth.

It went awfully hard with some of them but Tom bore it "with untiring spirits and formal constancy".

Our friend Mr Wheeler must be disgusted with Pennsylvania and her Institutions. The idea of standing a refractory "member of his family" before him face to face without giving him permission to place his fatherly hand upon her and not only that but taking her evidence against him, and then taking her safely out of his reach through an avenue of men whose revolvers would have made unpleasant music in his ears and disagreeable perforations through his cranium and other and harder parts of his person, - all this was certainly ^{in case of any "contempt" on his part} - all this was certainly

enough to occasion low spirits to the Woman hunter
and is enough to make every faithful citizen
cry out glory to God and honor to Pennsylvania.

I will close with a brotherly admonition.

Dont get egotistical - dont look down with too
much pity on those "petty men" who "walk under
his huge legs" dont forget the day of small
things when thee was a comparatively humble
person at Seventh and Arch Street, and
dont forget to stop and see a fellow when
thee gets out of limbo.

Thine most truly
Edward W. Cozzins.

G. Passmore Williamson

At a meeting of the Session of the Associate Presbyterian Church, in Shippen Street, Philadelphia, September 14th, 1855, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and a copy was ordered to be transmitted, to Mr. Williamson.

1. Resolved, That we have read with amazement the facts in the case of our fellow-citizen Passmore Williamson, now in prison for an act of obedience to the teachings of the Christian religion and the highest dictates of humanity.

2. Resolved, That so far as the facts in the case are to be taken as a guide, we see no reason why Judge Kane may not with equal justice issue the same order to any one of us, and then imprison us for contempt for refusing to do a thing impossible. Who is safe?

3. Resolved, That we regard the conduct of slaveholders in bringing their human chattels into the State of Pennsylvania as a contempt of our laws and a direct insult to the dignity of a Sovereign State, and we consider it as evidence of an ulterior design to degrade the whole country to the condition of the Slaveholding States.

4. Resolved, That inasmuch as ignorance of the law can release no man from its binding obligations, we see not why ignorance or neglect to plead the law should deprive any man of its protection. And consequently, the neglect of Mr. Williamson to object to the jurisdiction of Judge Kane can be no just cause why the Supreme Court of the State should not grant him relief.

5. Resolved, That that Christianity which has so far debauched the conscience of the Nation that it can enact exorbitant and cruel laws which denude the citizen of every personal right, physical, moral and civil, greatly needs a reformation. And that any church which can endure, even by sufferance, although they are sanctioned by law, such practices as these - the pursuit by one man of his interests to the injury of the life, liberty, or property of any other human being - the ~~prostitution~~ ~~traffic~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~persons~~ ~~of~~ ~~Gods~~ ~~blood~~ and of all education - the separation of families - the prostitution of females by brute force to any villain that can command \$1200 or \$1500 - traffic in the souls and bodies of men, not excepting their own illegitimate offspring - torture, murder and signed law - the annihilation of freedom of speech and liberty of conscience - and the punishment of the innocent for the protection of the guilty - can constitute no part of the Church of the living God; and the government with which it has linked itself is a curse to the human race, and cannot escape the doom of its predecessors in crime.

6. Resolved, That while we condemn the judicial usurpation of Judge Kane, and urge his impeachment, we are constrained to regard our present degradation and insecurity as the necessary consequence of the complicity of almost every ecclesiastical body in the land with the infamous crime of American Slavery - a crime which either carries with it every other crime, or obliterates every obligation of humanity and desecrates God's moral government of the world.

7. Resolved, That we detect the popular maxims of the Slave code, that an unjust law must be executed while it exists.

That judges are bound to execute such laws against their conscientious convictions or resign their office - because these maxims are reducing to a barbarous despotism a people once free. When our law-makers can legislate the essential properties which distinguish a man from a brute out of him, and leave nothing in him that he does not possess in common with the inferior animals, and when judges can execute such a law, we will obey the slave code, but not kill them.

8. Resolved, that while we deem it inexpedient to appeal to those divines who boast that their followers increase because they never preach politics except when they see our glorious union moulded and tottering to its fall under the feet of some fugitive slave, we do most respectfully and earnestly solicit our fellow Christians of every denomination to appear by some suitable demonstration on the side of liberty, before it be too late. Is it not time for Christians to rouse themselves when the glorious gospel of the grace of God can be no longer preached in one-half of these States? For if the manner in which it has been circumscribed within the last twenty-five years be a criterion of the rate at which lawless power is to advance hereafter, it will be but a few years that it can be preached among us.

9. Resolved, that the Christian manliness of Passmore Williamson, although personally unknown to any of us, calls for our sympathy and the expression of our highest admiration. He has animated the hearts of all good men, in the present struggle for religion, liberty and law. While he lives, American liberty can never totally perish. ~~Who~~ ^{can} ~~can~~ ^{not} ~~admire~~ ^{admire} the anomalous magnanimity of ~~his~~ truculent Judge, who, at the expense of his own good name, has inscribed that of Passmore Williamson among ^{the few, the immortal names} that were not born to die.

C Webster, Moderator,

Joseph Patrick
Clerk pro tem.

115.1.2

1850
1851

San Francisco Sep 5 1855

Dr J Williamson

I must as one of old Grace be
with you in this affliction and your
tribulation as you suffer for
my Dear People and I am in thou-
ght and sympathizing in Prison me ha-
rks the Self to you for Consoling you
and your Afflicted Family who is
Identified with the Down trodden of the
I feel you suffering I hope you may
press the Masque above all post on
Streight Dispair Not this will Bring
Redptian to our in pensylvania with
the word will Bare Testimony

You in H. B. Conitt

So Mr P Mr

116.1.2

Boston Sept 5 1851

Dear Sir

Though an entire stranger I yet take the liberty of enclosing to you an article of mine, which appeared in the Boston Transcript of yesterday, and which contains an allusion to your case,

It may, perhaps, encourage you in doing and suffering "unto the end" to be assured that you are and will continue to be an object of the most respectful interest to the friends of freedom and humanity throughout the civilized world.

Very truly yours

A. J. Bowditch

Your correspondent "Z." seems to regard me as quite *presuming*, in expressing a doubt of the correctness of certain decisions of our Supreme Court. He dwells with much emphasis on the indisputable talent and learning of its several members, and announces the long period of time which they had devoted to the consideration of the case alluded to. Admitting that there is a province in which I may legitimately form and express an opinion, that might be entitled to some weight, he yet considers that I wholly transcend that province, when I undertake to judge *what land is conveyed by a deed, or what title passes by a will*. I really conceive, that with these two deductions there is nothing left for a conveyancer, these being *the two fundamental matters of inquiry involved in every investigation which he is called upon to make*.

I deem it *the right*—aye, more than that—the *duty* of every loyal member of the profession fairly and candidly to criticise any legal decision which he shall think erroneous, from however high a tribunal it may emanate; and although it may happen to be founded on a deliberation of *two, or even of fifteen, years*. I certainly yield to no one in respect for the law or its ministers. As to the Judge who delivered the opinion specially commented upon, I will say that I have always felt for him a sincere personal regard—that, although the youngest member of the court, I think him one of the ablest—and that, considering the decision as emanating from them all, I do not believe that the views arrived at could possibly have been *stated with greater legal precision, clearness or accuracy*. It was a masterpiece of technical reasoning.

In the case of *Curtis vs. Francis*, I conscientiously believe that no person ever *did read* or ever *can read* the deed in question without the most entire and absolute conviction of the *actual intent of the grantor to sell and of the grantee to buy a tract of land included within parallel straight lines*. I believe that such is the *legal effect of the conveyance*—that (as I have said elsewhere) a line is *one line*, and that a line broken off in the middle and one part detached from the other, is as impossible in the true construction of a deed as in a proposition of Euclid. I shall die with unaltered convictions on this point. I have therefore clearly and unequivocally expressed them. *This decision, I am persuaded, ought to be and eventually will be overruled*. If I know my own heart, I should have expressed the like disapproval of it had its effect been to put into Mr. Francis's possession an estate of \$50,000 instead of depriving him of it.

In relation to the Brattle Street Parsonage case, I had never been consulted directly or indirectly. I had merely heard that the estate was devised on condition. I had formed no "pre-conceived opinion" on the question involved—except, indeed, such as arose from the satisfaction which I felt when I learnt how the case had been decided. *My entire sympathy and good wishes were with the Society*. But it seemed to me, on reading the decision, that, like the other case, it was *founded on an erroneous application of a sound rule of law*. I have made no labored examination of authorities. I have merely referred to two prior adjudications, and presented certain general views which happened to occur to me *as showing the nice and shadowy distinctions known to the law of the land*. I had never conversed with any of the parties or counsel opposed to the Society. I am now, however, authorized to state that a written opinion exists in their possession, drawn up by the late Mr. Justice Hubbard, before he became a member of the Bench, which adopts the precise construction of this devise at which I arrived without knowing that "I was following in the footsteps of so illustrious a predecessor." *That each of us should have adopted the same "plausible view," is a coincidence by which, I confess, that I feel much gratified*.

Still further. Only a few years ago a bill was brought in behalf of the same church for leave to sell this very land. The bill was dismissed by a formal decree. The opinion then delivered has never been published—and its precise grounds are unknown to me. It would seem that it must have been on a *directly opposite construction of the will from that to which the same court have now arrived*, unless it turned upon some matter of form, which can hardly be supposed, as a Court of Equity will always allow any amendment in matters of form which will enable them to do justice between the parties.

I had not, of course, the slightest wish or intention of prejudicing the sale of the estate. I supposed that the rights of all persons interested had been finally and irrevocably fixed by a decision to which all had been made legally parties, and that the law was, at least, well settled as to them and as to this parcel of land, as fully as it is in a capital case after the accused has been acquitted or executed.

Infallibility is the attribute only of the judgment seat of God. Already there exists a large volume devoted to the enumeration of "cases doubted and overruled."

We have no Judge *Kane* in this latitude. Imprisonment in the sacred cause of human freedom, under the odious doctrine of *contempt of Court*—an imprisonment perpetuated by judicial etiquette—has made the jail of *Passmore Williamson* the most honorable abode in *Pennsylvania*. The ermine of *Massachusetts* has upon it no such spot or blemish. *Her Judges need no champion*—certainly not one who resorts to personalities. They may, indeed, well challenge the just criticism of the world. Far distant be the day when they shall feel themselves *above* listening to the honest sentiments of even the humblest citizen!

GLEANER.

TROUBLE ALL ROUND. We have news of accidents last night on the Stonington and Nor-

Pittsburgh Sept. 6 1855

Wassmer Williamson Esq

My dear Sir,

You no doubt will have been informed, before this reaches you, that you were nominated by the Philadelphia Convention, which assembled here yesterday, for Canal Commissioner. The convention was large and composed of many of the best men in the state, and your nomination was enthusiastically and bore down every thing before it, showing that the sympathies of the people are with you, while Kane (he is not worthy of the prefix judge) was handled without gloves, which his unjust and atrocious acts in your case so richly deserve. You had the best and most kindly wishes of the entire body, and yet all felt your imprisonment was doing more for the cause of freedom than all the efforts which have been made by its friends for the last five years. It is hard, and we feel it to be so, that you should be called upon to suffer in your own proper person, for the sins of the North, and yet you must not forget that

The hand of Providence is in it, and that the cause for which you are now suffering is the glorious one of States rights and individual freedom.

This is but the beginning of the end, and the time is not distant, when the fetters of the North shall be broken, and the Bastiles which the Federal government are erecting, shall be leveled to the ground by an injured and an indignant people, and until then and may God speed the hour you must patiently wait for your full reward, but in the mean time, your name will be a kind of a watch word in the North and will be spoken with respect and admiration, from Maine to Oregon, while it will ever be respected, if not loved, in the ever green and rice fields of the South.

I apprehend you may think we have not served you in this nomination and that you and your friends should have been consulted, but there was no time for this, and if error has been committed, you must attribute it to the generous impulses of your friends who not only wish to serve you, but the great cause in which

they are interested in common with your self.
 You may not be elected, but of this I feel pretty
 confident that if we had three instead of one
 month before the election, that you would be, and
 if Philadelphia will now do her duty and respond
 to the action taken here, I would feel that your
 chances of success were very good, as that as the
 time is. Of this I am certain, your representation
 has touched a chord of the heart of the masses which
 will never cease to vibrate, until there is a storm
 created about the head of that bloody Hain
 which shall make him quake and shiver as did
 Macbeth at the ghost of Banquo, and which shall
 tear from his shoulders the crime which he has
 so greatly dishonored, and leave on record a lesson
 that will teach all petty tyrants now and forever
 that this is indeed the "Land of the free and the
 home of the brave;"

Trusting we shall soon hear of your liberation,
 accept my sympathies and believe me your
 sincere friend,

L. G. Murray

It would be gratifying to
 hear from you.

118.1.2

Doc Barn 9 Mo 10th 1855

Dear Cousin

I have for a long time thought of writing to thee, but have not yet accomplished the task. But I sit down to day for the purpose of communicating a few of my thoughts on paper as I cannot have the pleasure of seeing thee. — Since thee has been a Prisoner I have thought of thee and thy family often than the returning morning, but not seeing or knowing any way that I could afford you any relief, I have been silent except in making frequent enquiries for thy health and watching the different papers to see if I ^{could} find any prospect of thee being released from one of the most contemptible Tyrants that ever professed to be judge in a free Country. But I have been as often disappointed untill last night's paper brought me the welcome ^{news} that thee ^{word} be likely to be released in a few days, without making concessions to that old tyrant, which I felt certain thee never would except on account of thy family, which I hear

very well in thy absence, excepte the children have the whooping cough, but no doubt they are well cared for. —

I have been at a loss to know why the Supreme Judges of Pennsylvania are so long in giving an opinion in a common case which deprives a man of all the liberties he has a right to enjoy. If they are so ignorant of the Law that it requires a month for them to consider on it, I think it is quite time we had some more learned men on the bench.

As for Hair, from what I have seen and heard in other cases I thought he was so degraded and willing to yield to southern opinion, I was sure nothing good could come from him.

Either his ignorance or impudence is unsurpassed in any thing I ever knew of a judge, I have not language to express my indignation.

Since I saw thee we have had the addition of a little boy to our family, he is now near 3 months old, is growing fine. — We heard yesterday you had an increase of another daughter which I suppose will please all hands. — I will excuse this scrawl for I send it out of friendship and not the interesting matter it contains. We are all well here and at Father's. I want thee to write soon as the first time and give me some of the particulars, fare as well as ^{the} can. I remain thy cousin
John P. Cheyne

Phil^a Sept. 13th 1855

Beloved Friend & Brother

In trans-
 mitting to you the accompany-
 ing resolutions of the Philadel-
 phia Female Anti-Slavery Society,
 permit me to say that our words
 are very inadequate utterances
 of our sympathy with you, in
 your struggle with the tyranny
 of usurped power. Vainly do we
 strive to express that sympathy
 in its fullness. You are suffering
 persecution for the sake of a
 cause to which our hearts and
 hands are pledged; you stand
 before the world, a representa-
 tive of the great Anti-Slavery
 enterprise, which is shaking
 this nation to its centre, and
 which is to effect the mightiest
 moral revolution of this age;
 and how can we but sympathize,

intensely, with you, as one standing where any of us may, at any time, be called to stand, bearing the interests of our cause in the hottest front of our battle.

Thank God! no words of exhortation to courage or fortitude are needed, from us to you. The inevitable Hour, fraught with so momentous consequences to the cause of Freedom, found the Man, equal to its large demands. But it may cheer your spirit, to know that, even now, rich harvests are reaped from your sowing; that we, your fellow laborers, are growing strong by your courage, - patient by your endurance, - and earnest by your self-sacrifice; and that others, hitherto, careless of the slave's wrongs, or inactive for their redress, are now arousing from their indifference, and coming to smell the anti-slavery boot.

"Joy to thy spirit, Brother!
A thousand hearts are weary,
A thousand kindred bosoms
Are baring to the storm!"

However that storm may increase
in its fury, and whenever and
wherever its thunder bolts may
strike, God grant that we may
all be found ready to do or to
suffer whatever may fall to our
lot, with undimmed hope, and
unwavering faith, that the
Right shall be vindicated, and
that its triumph over Wrong shall
be complete and glorious!

On behalf of the
Phil.^a Gen. A. S. Society,
Very Respectfully,
Mary Grew, Secy.

Mr. Passmore Williamson.

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119.3.R

At a Stated Meeting of the Philadelphia Female Anti Slavery Society, held Sept^r 13th 1855, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, Since we last assembled together, our city, our State, and our nation, have been deeply disgraced by the illegal imprisonment of Passmore Williamson, by Judge Kane, on a charge of contempt of court, in a case where he had no jurisdiction, and where the only offense of the prisoner was the exercise of his right, and the performance of his duty, in informing a free woman, once a slave, that, by the laws of Pennsylvania, she was made free, and,

Whereas, The Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania, have added to this disgrace, by refusing (by a vote of four to one) to grant a writ of habeas corpus to the said Passmore Williamson; and, in thus refusing, have not only daringly violated the plainly expressed and well understood law of habeas corpus, but, casting off the decent dignity appropriate to their office, have also, impugned the motives and insulted the feelings of their noble prisoner; therefore,

Resolved, That we regard this act of Judge Kane's, as a tyrannical usurpation of power, a bold defiance of the laws of Pennsylvania, an alarming invasion of State Rights, a precedent dangerous to the personal liberty of every citizen of the State, and a contemptible prostration, ~~and~~ of a Northern freeman, before the altar of Southern Slavery.

Resolved, That, in the conduct of the Bench of Judges of the Supreme Court of this State, in striking down that defense of liberty, the habeas corpus, we see lamentable evidence of the subserviency of Pennsylvania to her slave-masters in the South, and of the alarming extent to which the evil influences of slavery have permeated the political and social institutions of the North, deteriorating the moral character and impairing the moral sense of our citizens.

Resolved, That, while we thus condemn and deplore this decision of the Bench, we accord all honor to Judge Knox, whose name will be held in grateful remembrance by posterity, as that of one who, "faithful found among the faithless," ably and eloquently pronounced righteous judgment, in opposition to all his associates.

Resolved, That the general apathy of our various

religious denominations, in view of these outrages which have been perpetrated in their midst, is another evidence of the deep corruption and hypocrisy of the American church, which, while it arouses alarm and indignation, must, also, excite inexpressible grief in every truly christian heart.

Resolved, That the true courage and christian fortitude, the noble willingness to suffer in a righteous cause, and for the sake of his country's well-being, and the elevation of his race, manifested by Passmore Williamson, in this crisis, demand the admiration and high esteem of his fellow countrymen; and, that we, hereby, assure him of our hearty sympathy in the sacrifice and suffering by which he is, now, most effectually serving the Anti-Slavery cause.

Resolved, That we proffer the expression of our warmest sympathy to the wife of our imprisoned friend, who bravely shares, with him, this persecution for righteousness' sake; and in the name of the slave mothers and wives on Southern plantations, whose deeper anguish calls on her for succor, and in the name of our country, whose dearest rights and liberties are in imminent peril, we do beseech her to falter not in this stern trial,

but, with all the strength and devotion of woman's heart, to minister to the fortitude and heroism of her high-souled husband.

Resolved, That these startling scenes, enacted in our midst, solemnly call upon us to examine the basis of our faith and the strength of our principles; and to cherish a supreme and unflinching devotion to Truth and to Right, that we may be found faithful to Humanity and to God, when the time of our trial shall, suddenly, come, and the shadow of a prison fall across our pathway.

Sarah Pugh Pres.

Mary Grew, Cor. Sec.

Hannah Lee Stickney Rec. Sec.

Fountain Green 9th mo. 15th 1855

Dear Cousin

I received thy truly acceptable letter & have anxiously awaited the decision of those Judges. Thy ~~case~~ case has been a very hard one, not a day has passed thy imprisonment but my thoughts have wandered to thee. Thine has my warmest sympathy and approval of all reflecting persons of my acquaintance. Imposition of all kinds grates harshly on my feelings. I feel more indignant than ever since I learned the unreasonable & infernal decision of those impostors called judges. They have in away that I believe is a conspired plot. They have got a rebuke that I hope will open their eyes. I have been more than gratified to find the people giving such a

noble demonstration of their approbation
of thy course, to nominate thee to
the highest office of the State.

I unite with the sentiments of that
noble man, S. Aron of Montgomery
If thee cannot get thy rights as
every ^{citizen} is entitled to it, is high time
for the people to let them petty
tyrants know, they are not to be
put off by them whipping the devil
round the stump as they have
been. If there is no legal process
to liberate thee soon I think
it time for the people to act
for themselves.

Please write soon & inform me
what are thy prospects.

I have ^{heard} nothing direct since thy
letter from thy family.

Elizabeth is still about, but will
not be long, we are enjoying our
usual health. I conclude with sincere
desire for thy early liberation

Elizabeth joins me in love to you both
thy cousin E. Chumey

Please inform thy Father that I
left an umbrella in your office
to take charge of it until an
opportunity offers, to forward it
Hague & Co.

Auburn, Cayuga County
New York, Sept. 17th 1855

Mr. Cassius Williamson
Philadelphia }

~~My~~ Dear Sir,

As Secre-
taries of the Cayuga County Republican
Convention, held in this City last Saturday
the 15th inst., we are charged by one
of the resolutions passed, to transmit
to you a copy of their entire proceedings,
which you will find enclosed.

At any time, as individuals
and citizens, we would be proud to
communicate the expressions of sym-
pathy of so calm, considerate and en-
lightened an Assembly; but upon an
occasion like the present, when what
there is of patriotism and of virtuous
independence in the Northern States
of this Republic, yet nominally free,
is striving to rebuke the prostitution
of Federal Power to the purposes of
private malice at the behest of Slavery,
the occasion becomes endowed with
peculiar interest. The public indigna^{tion}

tion, so long habituated to put up with merely public encroachments upon public rights and interests, and public law, has, in your conviction and incarceration, been called upon to submit to a reverse trial.

While the proud pre-eminence of having been selected by the Slave Power of this Country, to be the individual Representative Man, in whose person the liberties of the People are to be stricken down, or to be triumphantly sustained, must be to you ample compensation for all the wrongs which Despotism can inflict, you are yet well assured that you cannot stand, or fall alone. The eyes of patriotism are everywhere bent upon you, in hope, in confidence, and in the triumphant expectation, that as the Standard of Liberty has been committed to your keeping, without your solicitation, it will never be surrendered except with your life.

Accept sir, from those who know you not, these expressions of admiration and of sympathy which you find enclosed, as the Span-

W 120
120.2.R
taneous outpourings of a portion of
the People, who yet are free, and who
cannot witness the oppression of which
you are the subject, without feeling
that the rights and liberties of all
are stricken down by the same atro-
cious blow which has prostrated you.

Very respectfully & truly
your friend and obedient
servants.

Jas. C. Jackson

Jas. R. Cox

Secretaries of the Convention.

123.1.R
J. W. Garrison Sept 16th 1853

Dear Sir

I can sympathise with you in your situation and I think remember you almost as if I was bound with you - You are suffering the power and are placed under the power that is making chattles and merchandise of more than three Millions of American born citizens - Accord-
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ing to the estimate of Wendel Philip there is no less than twenty hundred millions of Dollars invested in the traffick of slaves and souls of men in these ~~United~~ United States - In the half of these states every second or third house is a place of breeding human beings for market the same as other cattle and yet we call ourselves a Christian nation or people - When I think of this I sometimes am lead to believe that there is a blindness over this nation resembling the situation of Egypt before the judgements were sent on that devoted land - I say I can feel with you from experience - I have been dragged before the United States court for more than nine years one suit after another untill I have expended near three thousand Dollars - my house was sold by the United States Marshall at the courthouse in Pittsburgh - and have had to stand almost alone in the whole transaction my sympathies were few and far between in the trying hour - at one time and in my greatest trouble the coloured people of Pittsburgh were the only persons that appeared bound with me through their exactions were raised three hundred dollars to assist in paying the first judgement which amounted to about two thousand Dollars cast and all I was told that some of the old coloured women came with their twelve and half cents I have had to sell my land and lots to the amount of three thousand Dollars and still indebted for part of the money ~~to~~ to redeem my house - But still I was at liberty and not bound as you are in the Prison I am afraid I could not stand that I was always able to get home when I wanted with my family you know your feelings better than any person else - But I hope there is a good time

123.1.V
coming you have many to sympathize
with you and you are now a candidull
for a respectable office and I am Decidid
if you have not a majority in this county
and may be two thirds of the votes - I would like
to be as young as you are to see what is about
to be done in these united states - a revolution
is about to take place and what is or will
be the result no person in the world knows
but the slaves will be set free and righteous
judgement will be executed for the oppressed
and as it is a national sin the whole nation
must suffer and we amongst the rest

Yours Respectfully
Thos^t Mitchell

P.S I thought of copying this letter
but as you will want something to
occupy your mind in your solitary hours
you can find out its contents - My crime
was letting a slave go and live in a small house
about nine miles from town. where I live
you will see Judge Greer's charge to the
Jury in the Law Journal printed in
Sarcaster in the year 1846 or 47 That
was the first trial and it continued in
court untill last spring I would like to
receiv a letter from you if suppose you have
liberty write

R M



Philadelphia 9^{mo}. 21st. 1838.

Passmore Williamson,

Dear Friend,

The accompanying expression of sentiment was adopted at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society held on the 18th. inst: and it becomes my pleasing office to communicate it to thee

In doing so, let me express the deep sense of obligation which we feel to thee, for the instructive lesson thou hast enforced and for the eminent services thou hast rendered to the cause of freedom.

Very truly thy friend,
 Anson Gillingham
 Secretary.

1283.R

1282.R

Whereas, The Supreme Court of this State has refused to grant to Passmore Williamson, a writ of habeas corpus, thereby violating law and justice and sustaining Judge Kane in the outrages which he has perpetrated in the name of the United States,

Therefore, Resolved, that this Committee tender to Passmore Williamson the expression of their earnest sympathy with him in this additional violation of his rights, and that we do assure him that his patient and firm endurance of persecution and imprisonment for conscience' sake and in a righteous cause, is gratefully appreciated by us, in common with all his fellow laborers in the Anti-Slavery enterprise and by true friends of Liberty, throughout this nation.

Phila: 9 mo: 22: 1855.

Esteemed friend:

I have hesitated for weeks to call and see thee at thy post of honor, asking myself the question - 'what could I do for thee', by so doing. I could neither unlock thy door, nor enlarge thy cell; and felt that, compared with the gross injustice under which thou was suffering, the most heartfelt sympathy might be but as 'the sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.'

And I do not now approach thee with sympathizing phrase - thou needs it not; if what manhood I hold is worth the having, thou knowest where and what I am, and what relation, under the circumstances, it must bear to thee; so, putting aside all intention of such, I am here to thank thee for the exhibition of a steadfast integrity and an unflinching manhood, in the contemplation of which I feel myself

the Stronger and the better man.

Any one of us might^d have had the courage shown by thee - to have occupied thy place; few of us I fear would have evinced the same calmness and clearness under such an infliction of folly and injustice.

Again thanking thee for the unvarying exhibition in both doing and bearing - of all that may become a man; and with my and my wife's kindest regards to thee and thine, I catch the privilege of subscribing myself, as I began,

most truly,

Thy friend,
 Dan. Quail

Papmore Williamson,
 Cloyamensing Prison.

130, 1. P.

Joshua L. Hollowell

9 Nov 22 1855

Dear Papineau.

Since my ~~interview~~ interview with
 thee yesterday I have learned with great
 regret that it is thy purpose through Council
 to make for a motion in Kane's Court for
 a dismissal of the writ on the ground of
 want of jurisdiction, the object being to
 get Jones's opinion & decision that Kane
 had not jurisdiction and that he consequently
must be libelited. As advice is cheap
 and will not be taken by thee unless thy judgment
 is convinced I have thought it right to drop thee
 a line saying that with the light I have
any motion whatever by thy Council in Kane's
 Court will essentially detract from the dignity
 of thy position and give our Enemies great
 advantage. I believe that Kane would be
 immeasurably delighted if thee were to make
 such motion, or do anything that would give

him a chance to dismiss the case and at
 the same time make such a speech as
 would vindicate him with a certain class
 Now he is on a bed of Coals growing
 hotter day by day, and in Heaven's name
 let the only old scoundrel be kept
 there until the wickedness in him be
 roasted out if that be possible.
 Had the contemplated motion been made
 in the early stage of the business it might
 have been well perhaps, but it seems to me
 very bad policy now. ~~The policy is~~
 the most dignified policy for thee, I venture
 to suggest is in doing nothing, for any
 motion of any sort that thou can make
 in that Court will render essential service
 to Kane. I need not say to thee what
 would be frier's course presuming that the
 case can be got before him, for if he
 were to order thy liberation the decision
 would be accompanied by such comments
 as his violent coarse & vulgar nature

would naturally suggest to him & he would
undoubtedly vindicate his dear brother's
uprightness! &c &c.

thy friend

J. Hallom

7th day

My dear Sir:

The denial by you, in the return which you made to the writ of Habeas Corpus, of any custody or possession at any time of the Slaves of Mr. Wheeler, I believe to be strictly true. Yet I find an impression prevalent among a number of gentlemen of my acquaintance that some arrangement or concert with others was entered into by you for the conveyance of these Slaves to a place of concealment. It is supposed by those to whom I allude that the carriage in which the Slaves were placed was hired either by you, or under your direction - in short, that your action in the matter was not strictly confined to what passed between you & Mr. Wheeler & his Slaves on board the ferry-boat. Hence it is argued that custody or control of these Slaves was for a short period yours. Now it seems to me that the statements which have hitherto appeared in the public papers have not with sufficient minuteness met this objection. Would it not be well therefore for you (or if, by your present position you cannot, then for your father, or some one cognizant of the facts) to show in such way as could be open to no exception, that your agency in the release of the

Slaves involved no preconcerted ~~mode~~ of action with others, & ceased entirely upon your leaving the boat? If such statement could be made, it would, I think, be of advantage to you. I am not sufficiently familiar with legal matters to know exactly how the point to which I refer can be ^{best} reached. My meaning however you will have no difficulty in perceiving. Undoubtedly the impression is extensively held that the words added at your father's suggestion are at variance with facts. And the belief consequently widely exists that Judge Kane was justified in regarding these words as "illiberal and evasive". My own belief & impression were such until I received information to the contrary from our mutual friend St. C. Townsend Esq. You will, I trust, pardon the liberty I have taken in sending you this note, & accept the assurance of my continued and earnest sympathy.

Very truly Yours
 Wm. C. Yarnall.

Sunday Evening,
 September 2nd 1855.

Papmore Williams Esq.

134.1.R
48
134
Easton Pa. Sept 25. 1855.

Pasmore Williamson

Dear Sir. In while away your solitary moments amused within the walls of a cold cell by as great a Tyrant as Jeffries of old I address you for the purpose of causing you to speak from your lonely prison to the whole North, in such a manner that the echo will reverberate from Maine to Virginia and from the Atlantic to the far West.

A few chosen and valiant spirits in Kentucky are agitating the subject at present of making that State free. Why could you not assist in that movement (even if you are in prison) and in the following manner. Cause to be proclaimed to the free states "that Kentucky is about to become free, and it is required that each Citizen who will engage to emigrate to Kentucky in event of its becoming a free state should forward their names, together with the amount of property and Cash they will carry with them in their emigration. These names to be sent to Pasmore Williamson Philad^a Pa - who will transcribe and arrange such names into a list, and said list together with the letters will be forwarded to the proper authorities of Kentucky." I think that 100,000 or perhaps 200,000 ~~some~~ names, some of which will be ^{the} most energetic and respectable citizens in the north would subscribe and act up to such a movement. Let us act

upon the mercenary interest of the Nigger Skinner
and see what its effect will be.

There is undoubtedly a movement in Kentucky
to free the state, and perhaps such a plan as
I have suggested would have a powerful in-
fluence in the Cause of freedom in that noble
state. You are peculiarly situated for such a
scheme, and you could also make the same oc-
-casion that is the "Address to the people of the
North for Kentucky's freedom", an argument in
indication of your own cause, and the tyranny
of your oppressors. If you think the plan a
good one, and still that it might be a com-
-plication which would injure the cause by your
being connected with it. please delegate your au-
-thority to some other, although I think you
the most fit person in the Union for such
a movement. Please take the above
into consideration

and oblige

A. Watson

1871.2

1855

to

Dublin (Ireland) September 27

Captain William Cox,

Dear Sir

As one who has been for many years deeply interested in the efforts made both in Europe and America for the abolition of Slavery in the United States, I wish to express to you how much I sympathize with you in the deprivation of liberty, which you are now undergoing in consequence of your zeal in behalf of that great cause. I think the fact that a citizen of Pennsylvania, a man in good circumstances, of respectable character & generally esteemed, should be the victim of a United States Court, in a free State, for a construction offence, arising from the performance of an act of common humanity affords one of the most potent arguments that could be offered for the necessity of zeal, energy, and perseverance in the prosecution of the anti Slavery enterprise. Having a family, a home and business of my own, I can in some measure realize the anxiety, mortification & grief you must suffer in being so circumstanced, although your position is attended with the consolation that you suffer in a good cause. Still

it is very deplorable to be a prisoner, and I shall not attempt to recommend you to your deprivations except by suggesting that the more flagrant and wanton the ~~for~~ abuse of power towards you, the greater is the probability that you will become an instrument for the overthrow of a system so disgraceful to the Liberty & Civilization as Chattel Slavery.

In my opinion the fact that this system is in its very nature and operation inimical to civil and religious liberty, to education, to free thought, free speech & a free press, that it will ~~bring~~ ^{bring} back the tide of time and bring the dark ages back upon the people who suffer it, & the very strongest ~~arguments~~ ^{institutions} claim upon all who wish well to their race throughout all civilized countries to labour for ~~their~~ its overthrow. It is not a struggle in behalf of one dark-toddler race - it is an effort to remove one of the greatest impediments to the onward progress of the whole human race. The more fully ^{you admit} that is claimed for the United States as the light of the world & the asylum of the oppressed, the more imperatively it becomes the duty of all who are not utterly selfish every where to seek by all right means the abolition of Slavery within the borders of such a people.

I have for years been in the way of constantly reading American newspapers which give the arguments & statements of the Slaveholders & their opponents, and portray in the low language of the vulgar and pride of the United States the influence of the Slave power upon those who control the destinies of your country and occupy your seats of justice. I therefore do not wonder that to you the times of the Slaves in England are come back again, and that iniquities are practiced at the dictation of the behalf of Slaveholders which the English people have never known since the times preceding the Revolution of 1688.

To see to whom the Anti-Slavery cause is dear - what means to do ~~so~~ on both sides of the Atlantic ^{who} are heartily & thoroughly interested in the true progress and real greatness of the people of the United States, your present circumstances & future prosperity will be deeply interesting. You have the consolation that multitudes whom you have never known & may never see watch your course with sympathy & respect - and amongst these I number ^{the} include your sincere friend

Richd D Webb

191.1.2

28th Sept. 1835

Dear Paponard

I must leave for Fayette County (by way of Somerset) the late residence of my mother, and the present residence of my sister on Monday morning next at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - and in the meantime I am under the crush of engagements which make me fearful I shall not see you before I go. I will be absent more than two weeks -

I am, in simple phrase, distressed about the things in which you are involved. We pray for the sufferers, but the unmerciful whose affections are disappointed of their demands are to be pitied also; I never dreamed that I could be so useless where I would be so willing to change places with the party involved - And I don't like the aspect of things any way I can fix them. I have always had but one opinion upon the

line of action to be pursued, and I
 have stood alone in it, I believe.
 At first - before the application to the
 Supreme Court, and while it was
 pending, I thought that the remedy
 should be pushed in the Court and
 Courts which had the case on hand,
 but I could not confidently calculate
 upon the results there, and I was
 shaken a little in this course by
 the vague hope that a majority of
 our Supreme bench might decide
 as Judge Kane has determined
 the question for himself - If they
 should do so, all well, and Mr
 Meredith's apparent confidence
 overruled my own judgment as
 it properly deserved to do - or
 rather it disturbed my assurance
 of the course my own mind prompted,
 I looked upon the case as it stood, and
 still stands, in Judge Kane's Court
 as a mere inchoate and entirely
 unsettled proceeding - Judge Kane
 in his written decree, or decision

said that he was at a loss to determine on what grounds the prisoner's case was rested by himself and counsel, He said it was not presented to him, and he proceeded to guess at it. - Then Mr Gilpin asked leave to argue the question of his jurisdiction, he said it was now too late - that is too late to proffer or present the commitment - but he added that he would advise the Council for the respondent to take a day or two to consider what further motion they would make - Now all these things showed that the judgment of the Court was not and was not regarded as definitive.

Therefore my notion of the predicament of the case led me to anticipate a refusal of the writ of Habeas Corpus by our Supreme Court on the ground that it is disorderly for any Court to interfere with the action

of another which its action in the matter is only in progress and unsettled - because, further, the District Court was competent to adjudicate all the points on which the appeal was taken, and had not determined any one of them but stood waiting for that other motion which it had itself invited. And for various other reasons which I need not now detail - I thought the writ would be refused for the present and in the then present posture of affairs. - I need not say how much Judge Black's opinion astounded me. It produced one of the most painful recollections of feeling that I have ever suffered. Judge Kane's action in the premises puts him in a letter or in fact so far as position either as a man or as a judge. The friendship of a lifetime was crushed by that article of Black's. Lewis and Corrie, and Woodward had no power to hurt me. Black had. God forgive him.

But the case stands now as it stood before the appeal. So far as further proceedings are concerned,

Judicially

I mean immediate legal proceedings are concerned.

A rehearing or a new hearing, or some thorough hearing of the whole matter ought to be had in Judge Kane's Court, and then if need be, the case can be taken up to the higher tribunals of the Federal Court, when it will undoubtedly be disposed of as we wish. It can be settled in no other way than your own personal efforts and interests require.

I even think that a persistent refusal to prep the case through the federal courts will give color to a charge of contumacy, and it must be settled somehow sometime -

It is not, however, best a advise haste. Let it work while it may do so without partly prejudicing your position in the candid judgment of all men.

Your counsel are of course under the

Natural bias of mind, which have started in one direction to persecute it rather than ^{to} counter march, and to settle down in confirmed complacency and protest rather than turn in a new direction for relief.

There is a purpose to be served for the benefit of "Democracy" in detaining you awhile - it will give the South assurance that the Southern Democracy is all right on the question, and may be relied upon for anything required, cost what it may in the end. The politicians confide that the Federal authority will be retained in the hands of "the party" and having no other hope, whatever may happen, will drive their bargain till they make a break by it.

The Republican movement has also something to gain by a Party - down.

I'd see him both damned and the United States of America

along with them before I would consent
to the violation of your precious
rights in the Charter.

Many influences not at all politic
or corrupt operate to prevent our
friends from seeing the true predic-
-ament of the case, and these influences
are all the more to be pardoned and
feared too, that they are properly
operative upon your own mind.

You owe something to yourself, and
a very free and very calm
consideration of the instruments
ought to be allowed.

I speak only what I feel when
I say that I know not the man
living from whose simple integrity
courage and loyalty to principle
I expect so much in your circum-
-stances as from you. I have a
religious trust and faith - and
a religious joy in you - just as you
see.

But I am bothered badly bothered
in another matter which is a sort

incident to your own special affair.
 The Republican Movement in Philad.
 is a mere nothing - look at the
 ticket nominated yesterday - do
 you see the skinning skeleton of
 1846 in it? or can you only see
 the everlasting shadow of that forlorn
 King in it?

The best thing it can do is to keep
 itself out of bed law.

There must be a fusion of all the
 Elements of opposition to Slavery.
 and Temperance must be dropped
 out of the partnership - Union and
 Slavery will save each other if
 they are allowed to appear as
 allies on the field. The simple
 issue must be made - and
 upon my soul I cannot consent
 to the mere tom foolery of a
 commitment to any life judicious
 Movement - Republicanism in
 Pennsylvania is a force as an
 independent hostile party - it will
 not bear talking about - I cannot
 touch it. It is full of malice
 and mischief in my apprehension
 and I must consult my own
 judgment as to my participation

Refr 1856 comes round the crisis
 will be distinctly before all the
 people and then we can all work
 and vote and effect our ends
 In the mean time I will do my
 duty in an entirely different
 field of action, but I will work
 to that end and object always,
 and the little done will be
 available for better and more
 definite ends than I seem to
 have in view -

I will not do an uncandid
 work - I will not mask my
 face - I will not compromise
 a shadow of an idea or feeling -
 and I devoutly hope I will
 be successful to the great issue
 in good time - at any rate I
 will try like a man -

I am tired and bothered and
 I have no spirits for writing
 or speaking but I could not resist
 leaving you without a word just now

You are surrounded with a host of
indignant friends - good friends,
true friends - It does not follow
that they are infallibly wise ones

You are yourself exposed to all
sorts of disturbing influences - the
best intentions & the soundest integrity
the noblest character is not a
complete defence against them -
Consider the whole ground - and
in doing so don't overlook the
judgment of the adversary. Whatever
of truth and uprightness there is in
your position they will find and
you will know what it is by the
rigor of their assaults.

Take the matter into your own
hands - for I know that you will
both judge rightly and do it too

Thine ever
Edwin

142 L.R

Mr. James M. Williams

Having had the privilege of seeing you lately in the prison where you are unjustly & illegally confined for no offence whatever and yet there is a strong feeling of sympathy in the West of your -

and having heard with regret that the politicians are using every means to get another candidate who may further their wishes and they will ask you to decline running for the office of Canal Commissioner I would regret very much if you should hearken to their wishes and resign I think sir that as you had no expectation or desire to be nominated for the office at the first that you would act prudently by not resigning in favor of any candidate but leave yourself in the hands of the people and if you are elected well if not you can sustain

Injury by It. I should be very
 much ^{pleas'd} to hear from you whether
 you will act on this suggestion as
 I think it is the most proper one
 to not hearken to those who may
 desire you, from affected friendships
 that you should resign!

I remain respectfully

Yours truly
 J. P. Brown
 Albany Octy 28/54

P.S. please write soon

It is wholly a political scheme
 on the part of a few politicians
 who we understand intend to get
 to promise to resign so as to make
 political capital out of it

J. P.

143.1. R

New Brighton Beaver Co Sept 29th 1855

Popsmore Williamson Esqr

Dear Sir

We have understood
 there is an arrangement on foot to have your
 name withdrawn as the Republican candidate
 for Canal Commissioners. and the name of
 that Nicholas Esqr of this County substituted
 as a kind of Fusion candidate. I have not
 been able to see many of the members of the
 Republican County Committee but so far as I
 have been able to ascertain their sentiments
 and that of the party they are averse to
 the project

Yours Respectfully,

M J Kennedy Chairman
 County Com

144.1.R

Pittsburgh, Sept. 29, 1855

To Sammore Williamson -

The undersigned, Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Allegheny County, do hereby earnestly and sincerely protest against the withdrawal of your name as a candidate for Canal Commissioner. The interests of the Cause of Freedom demand that you should remain in the field, even at the cost of some personal sacrifice.

Very Respectfully,

Your true friend
Car Campbell

Russell Errett

James McRae

Republican form

Pittsburgh, Sept. 24. 1855.

To Garrison Williamson - The undersigned earnestly protest against your withdrawal from the field as a Candidate under the action of the bogus Republican Committee lately met at Harrisburg. That Committee was made up, mainly, of your enemies, and men hostile to the Republican cause. They had no right to act in the premises, and we cannot be bound by it. We therefore urgently request you to leave yourself at the hands of your friends.

James Robb
 Geo Reed
 Geo M Reed
 J. H. W. Clelland
 James Patterson
 A. E. M. Gowin
 C. M. Gowin
 Thos Garrison
 John Mitchell
 Andrew L. Kerr
 M. A. Lavelly
 Sarahy Burton
 Richard Floyd
 James Cassidy
 William Boyd
 H. G. Chittick
 A. Howard
 A. M. Brown

E. D. Ames
 G. M. Hayes
 William Brown
 Lewis Poston
 Thomas Brown
 G. H. Martin
 Hugh Forsyth
 Wm Stevenson
 Henry Kane
 Wm Young
 J. R. M. Lane
 James B. Young
 Eam & Hatts
 J. Kirkpatrick
 W. Sigby W
 William Sigby Senr
 James Dight
 G. Adams
 J. A. Brown
 Hugh McMaster

And. McMaster
 Joseph Andrews
 David Paul
 Geo. H. Raymond
 R. Crucey
 John Ekin
 Robert Paulapf
 Edward Allen
 John B. Ferris
 Selby T. Johnson
 William Kerr
 E. Spencer
 John Vernon
 John O. Bailey
 J. W. H. White

147.2.R
 Wm. Lane
 C. M. Tu
 J. P. James
 Jas. M. Tadden
 Wm. M. Miller
 John McCaskey
 John Heiler
 Wm. Kerr
 William Mather
 James McEster
 John Major
 Russell Erick
 Jm. Brush
 David Reed

All the above were obtained in a very short time, and the list could be extended to any length, if time permitted.

Pittsb^y Sept 29 1835

Wm. Williamson Esq

Dear Sir

I have but a few moments to spare before leaving the city to attend a Republican meeting & cannot therefore give you all the reasons why you should not withdraw your name as a candidate. We have just heard that a majority of the Republican ^{state} Committee are blow-dotters, & that they have agreed to withdraw your name or at least try to induce you to decline. The ^{genuine} Republicans in the West are not willing to be sold by blow-dotters, to blow-dotters, & ~~it is hoped~~ it is hoped that you will not aid our enemies or your pretended friends to interfere with the appeal that has been made to the people in your behalf ⁱⁿ & behalf of Anti Slavery & the true principles of the Constitution. Do not at least permit Eastern politicians to move you until you hear from the Republican Committee in the West which I presume will be in a few days.

In haste with much respect

Sincere sympathy

Yours

E. L. Gossard

151 57

the
this
the
is al-
ten,
vent
And

W. M. JONES, Jr., Secretary,
(Late President of the Industrial Union of M. & S. I.)

Office of the Secretary,
1000 Ohio St., No. 1000

Office of the Secretary,
1000 Ohio St., No. 1000

151.2

Brooklyn, N.Y.
Oct 24 55

Dear Sir,

You will be
pleased, I think, with the
evidence from the Times
of today. Carry a part
of it published in one of
your papers.

Yours truly,
L. Tappan

W. S. Pierce, Esq.

I have 2 copies
with your letters
send one to W. S.
at my name

It would be a good plan
to get the Western men
charged to move in the
matter, so that the Whita
dealers in principles might
take warning.

PROSECUTORS ARRIVED.

The Hard Shells of the Thirtieth Assembly District
(Fifteenth Ward) have nominated Geo. C. Grant to
THIRTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT.
For Assessor—John S. Vreeland.
For Clerk—John P. Fitzpatrick.
For Constable—John Smith, Forty-first Dis-
trict.
THIRTIETH WARD.
For Court Clerk—Thirty-ninth District—J. H. Bra-
dy.
For Constable—John Campbell, John Brady.
To fill vacancy of School Trustee—George Caspary
School Inspector—George Caspary

Nothing can more forcibly illustrate the rapidity with which events move on in this fast age and country, than the fact that the imprisonment of PASSMORE WILLIAMSON is already almost forgotten,—or, if not forgotten, it has ceased to be talked about as an event of any special interest and importance. And yet it is unquestionably one of the most important proceedings ever had in this country. It involves principles vital to the very conception of popular liberty;—and if the doctrine which it involves shall become established, as a fundamental principle of American law, it will work a change in the whole frame and spirit of our institutions, almost as important as the change of our Government from a republic to a monarchy.

We have never seen the illegality of Judge KANE's proceedings in this case, more clearly or forcibly demonstrated than in an article which we copy from the *Hartford Courant*, and which, we understand, was written by Hon. JAMES DIXON, formerly member of Congress from Connecticut. Upon the main point of the case it is especially strong. Judge KANE sent WILLIAMSON to prison on the alleged ground that he had *perjured* himself, by making a false return to the writ of *habeas corpus*. Even granting the truth of the allegation, it is shown upon the highest authority that in just such cases the offender is to be held to answer therefor, at the next term of the Court,—not committed to prison at the discretion of the Judge, under pretext of contempt. This deprives the apologists of Judge KANE of the only shadow of an excuse they have ever been able to urge for his conduct.

The article puts the whole case very clearly and forcibly, and is well worth reading.

The Imprisonment of Passmore Williamson —Legal Aspects of the Case.

From the Hartford Courant.

The special boast of our "free and independent" people is their secure enjoyment of personal liberty. No man can be imprisoned here, we are in the habit of asserting, without due process of law. The accusation must be specific—the accused must be confronted by the witness—he must be heard by himself or his counsel—and a jury of his peers must pronounce him guilty, before he can be deprived of life or liberty. This is the theory of our Government.

Yet, at this moment, a citizen of the United States, and he a white man—(for if he was black not a word were to be said!—why single him out from the four millions of his fellow men, who, in this land of liberty drag out a wretched life in slavery!)—a white citizen of the United States—has been imprisoned more than two months, in the city of Philadelphia, without law—without alleged crime—without trial—without a hearing—without a jury—without limit of time. As he has had no day in court, so no day is fixed when he may go free. He lies in jail at the discretion of the Judge;—and for what? Let us briefly state the case.

In the month of July last, a gentleman named WHEELER arrived in Philadelphia, accompanied by three slaves. By the law of Pennsylvania, these slaves, on touching the soil of that State, became free. PASSMORE WILLIAMSON was at that time secretary of a society, founded by Dr. FRANKLIN, for the relief of free blacks, claimed as slaves. He informed the slaves in question that, by the laws of Pennsylvania, they were entitled to their liberty, whereupon they left their master, and went their way, as they had the most perfect right to do. WHEELER applied to Judge KANE, of the U. S. District Court, for a writ of *habeas corpus*, directing WILLIAMSON to bring the alleged slaves before his Court, to be dealt with according to law. To this writ, WILLIAMSON made return that the persons specified in the writ were not under his control and that he, therefore, could not bring them into Court—and he added that they had never, at any time, been under his control. Judge KANE, finding himself foiled in his purpose of returning the slaves to their former owner, discovered in this return a pretext for punishing WILLIAMSON. He went into an elaborate argument to prove his return to the writ a contempt of court. He could find no contempt in the allegation that the slaves were not, at the time of the service of the writ, under the control of WILLIAMSON, but he claimed that it had been proved that, at the time of their escape, they were so. The insertion, therefore, of this allegation, viz.: that the slaves had never been under the control of WILLIAMSON, he deemed to be a contempt of court, for which he committed

WILLIAMSON immediately asked permission to amend his return, by striking out the objectionable part; but this permission was denied, and the respondent was hurried off to prison, where he still remains. An application to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for a writ of *habeas corpus* to bring before it the body of WILLIAMSON, has been refused, on the ground solely, that the State Court could not go behind Judge KANE's adjudication. On this decision we make no comment. It was, perhaps, correct, and seems to be supported by precedents. See 7 Wheat. 38, 5 Cond. Rep. 225.

Such are the facts in this case. They disclose an instance of lawless oppression and tyranny unparalleled in the annals of judicial proceedings, and they ought to arouse the indignation of the people to a degree which would be satisfied with nothing short of the condign punishment of the Judge, whose power has been so grossly abused.

What is the crime for which WILLIAMSON is imprisoned?

1. Is it in the fact that he announced to the slaves of Wheeler their legal rights? This will not be claimed. On the contrary, it was his right and duty, as a man and a citizen, to give them the information concerning their right to freedom. They were oppressed and ignorant, and it would have been the duty, as has been well said elsewhere, "of Judge KANE himself, and of every magistrate, every officer of justice, in the State, to give such information, and see that the laws were executed according to their benevolent object and intent, and not suffer the weak through ignorance of the laws in their behalf, to become the prey of the strong, evading and overriding those laws."

2. Was there any intentional contempt of court on the part of WILLIAMSON? This is not even claimed by Judge KANE. How could it be, when the respondent desired to amend his return by striking out the immaterial part which was objected to? No, the contempt for which he lies in prison was technical—constructive—made out by reasoning—was, indeed, no contempt at all, as any man of ordinary sense must see. It was a base pretext, and such must be the judgment of the people when the facts are understood.

3. In point of fact this statement in WILLIAMSON's return, that the slaves in question had never been under his control, was strictly true. They were as free the moment they reached, by the voluntary act of their owner, the State of Pennsylvania, as Judge KANE himself. They were not under the control of WILLIAMSON, in any legal sense, and his return was therefore strictly correct—but suppose it were not—suppose the respondent committed perjury. Did that authorize the Judge to commit him to prison without a trial by Jury?

For the satisfaction of any lawyer who may urge that claim, we cite the following conclusive authority:

"If from any collateral evidence it should appear that there is reason to believe the respondent (in a *habeas corpus*) has perjured himself, the Circuit Court will recognise him to answer at the next term of the Court to such matters as may be found against him." *United States vs. Dodge*, 2 Gallis, C. O. R. 312. If, therefore, we admit that WILLIAMSON was guilty of perjury, that was a crime for which he should have been indicted and tried by a Jury. This, however, was not what Judge KANE desired. He well knew that WILLIAMSON's return was true, and that if indicted for perjury, he would be triumphantly acquitted.

4. The power of Judge KANE to imprison for contempt of Court, is defined by an act of Congress, passed March 2, 1831, the first section of which is as follows:

Be it enacted, &c. That the power of the several Courts of the United States, to issue attachments and inflict summary punishments for contempts of Court, shall not be construed to extend to any cases except the *misbehavior* of any person or persons, in the presence of said Courts, or so near thereto as to obstruct the administration of justice, the *misbehavior* of any of the officers of said Court in their official transactions and the *disobedience* or resistance by any officer of said Courts, party and juror, witness, or any other person or persons, to any lawful suit, process, order, rule, decree or command of the said Courts."

Was WILLIAMSON guilty of *misbehavior* in Court? This is not pretended. Was he guilty of *disobedience* to any writ, process, order, rule, decree or command of the Court? Let us see. What was the writ served upon him? It made it the duty of the respondent to bring the bodies of the alleged slaves into Court, or to make his return of reasons for not so doing. He made return accordingly. He stated that the persons were not, and never had been under his control, and that he could not therefore have their bodies in Court. Now we ask any lawyer to say how, under the act of Congress quoted above, Judge KANE had power rightfully to imprison for contempt of Court. There was no pretence of *misbehavior* in Court—there was no *disobedience* to the writ—which was in effect in the alternative—to bring in the bodies or make return of reasons for not complying. If the return was in fact, *false*, that was not *disobedience*. It was perjury, and for that, as is proved by the authority above cited, the respondent should have been recognized to appear at the next term to answer. Clearly there was no shadow of authority for the arbitrary sentence of imprisonment. It was a lawless exercise of judicial power, which would result in the impeachment of the guilty Judge, if the Government of the United States were not under the control of the oligarchy of the South.

There is no species of tyranny more dangerous than that which takes the form of judicial proceeding. The people of Connecticut are in the habit of respecting the adjudications of courts—and it is difficult for them to believe that the discretion of a Judge may be the most dangerous enemy of liberty. We beg leave to commend to them the following sentiments of Lord CAMDEN, on this subject, himself one of the purest Judges who ever adorned the English Bench:

"The discretion of a judge is the law of tyrants. It is always unknown. It is different in different men. It is casual, and depends upon constitution, temper and feeling. In the best, it is oftentimes caprice; in the worst, it is covetice, fully and passion, to which he

man?

152.1.8

145 Broadway
New York

Oct. 9. 1855

My dear Sir

Permit me to dis-
turb the quiet of your
prison by a single in-
quiry - I have kept
my eye on your
Very hard and in-
iquitous case of im-
prisonment, ever since
its commencement &
feel deeply interested
in your behalf, hence
this inquiry. Was Judge
Kane holding his Court

in ten times, with the usual concomitants of Clark, Marshall, Jay, Chief &c. &c. at the Court House, or Hall, usually in use on such occasions - or was he at Chambers, when the Habeas Corpus was granted in the case of the Whelan Slave, for a contempt in which you were imprisoned?

I have wished to learn this for some time and I know no better method of ascertainment than

This inquiring of you personally - Please answer me and much obliged.

Allow me to ask whether you read my view in the Tribune of Aug. 13. touching your ready and easy liberators?

Yours Truly
Horace Dillman

Mr Patmore Williams
son, Phil^a Jail.

At a meeting of the Rhode Island Anti-Slavery
Committee, in the City of Providence Oct 9 1855.
the following Preamble and resolutions were passed
unanimously and directed to be signed & published
Providence Oct 10 1855.

59
155
155.1.8
Whereas Judge Kane of the District Court of Philadelphia
Penns. on the 18th of July last ordered that Pafsmore
Williamson be confined in prison for contempt of Court,
and, Whereas the said Judge assumed the return made
by Williamson to be false and evasive, without any evi-
-dence that it was so beyond his own inference, and
Whereas, Williamson has, in our judgment been in prison
long enough to satisfy any reasonable demand of
injured dignity; and Whereas said Kane refuses to
let Williamson go unless he shall alter the return made
on the Writ. Therefore

Resolved, that the imprisonment of Pafsmore Williamson
by Judge Kane, for an alledged contempt of Court is a gross
outrage on justice, a deliberate insult to common sense,
and an act of judicial usurpation so manifestly vindic-
-tive, that it deserves the universal execration of mankind.

Resolved, that we respect the character, that we honor
the humanity, that we admire the firmness, that we love
and would gladly imitate the martyr like spirit of
Pafsmore Williamson, and would prefer to suffer impris-
-onment with him in the cause of human freedom, rather
than endure the odium with which the civilized world
will brand the name of his ermined persecutor.

Resolved, that we learn with satisfaction, that the friends
of Liberty in Pennsylvania, and in other sections of the Coun-
-try are circulating petitions to Congress for the impeachment
of Judge Kane; and we pledge ourselves in view of the move-
-ment to obtain a long list of signers to such a petition
among the free people of Rhode Island.

D. B. Harris, Secretary.

Sam. W. Wheeler, Chairman.

Providence R.I. Oct 13 1855.

Esteemed Friend,

Though a stranger to you in the flesh, I feel as though I had long known you and feel no diffidence in addressing you. ^{155.2.P}
I have watched with intense interest from its first stages in which your name was mentioned, (the affair of Jane Johnson and her children) until the present moment. I have rejoiced and mourned at times through its now three months giving no man who, was worthy of manhood could have done less than you did at the time you saw her and her children on board the Steamboat, and I believe no person could have been a man and not do as what you did. We deeply sympathize with you in your persecution for righteousness sake - and would gladly share it with you "rather (in the words of the resolution prefixed) than the odium with which the civilized world will brand the name of your persecutors." I hope and trust you may be delivered speedily out of the hands of your persecutors. truly we live in a despotism in this professedly republican and Christian country, and the great moral battle grows more and more intense, but God and all good men, and women are with us, and we shall come off conquerors.

The prefixed proceedings of our Anti Slavery Committee have been published in the Prov. Daily Journal (a copy of which I have sent you) and the Daily Tribune of this City.

God bless you and Yours,
Saml. M. Wheeler.

Hartford Oct. 13th 1853

Dear Friends & Brother

I know the heart of a prisoner and therefore know how to sympathize with you in your confinement. — When I was with brothers Thompson and Burr, shut up in the Maison Penitentiary, the thought that many of the excellent of earth did not forget us, but remembered us and sympathized with us, and prayed for us. This cheered and supported us during the long years of our imprisonment. The Bible was then a precious book to us, — doubly precious — And we felt the Lord was on our side. And now Dear Brother as I have read the account of your imprisonment. I have wanted to say to you be of good cheer, you are not forgotten, many warm hearts beat with sympathy, many Prayers ^{are} addressed to our Heavenly Father in your behalf, that he will sustain you and cause the wrath of man to praise him. You are called in the providence of God in this conflict with the "slave power" to represent every friend of the slave — And I trust every friend of the slave will stand by you and do

Ms. A. 1. 1. 251
All that can rightfully be done in your behalf,
I see by the papers you have a family, and
one added to it since your incarceration, here I
can sympathize with you, My Wife was made
a widow and my Children died and one was
born, while I was in prison. I think you must
know of our imprisonments, and perhaps have
read our book. I was in P. 7 years ago and
sold our Prison Life & Reflections, I think your
Father bought one of me. If you have not read
the book, you will do so now with interest. Last
Sabbath evening our minister "Wm. W. Patton"
of this city preached a sermon in your behalf,
as upon the great principles involved in your
imprisonment. He was listened to by a full
house with interest and approbation. I trust the
Lord will sustain you and your family, and
will open a way for your honorable deliverance.

If you can write me I should be much pleased.
May the Lord bless you, and be a little Sanctify-
ing to you, and make you a burden to your enemies

Yours Truly

Wm. W. Patton

157, 1. R

New York Oct 13th 1855

Mr Pafmore Williamson

Dear Sir

A desire to participate even in the smallest degree, in a good and highly honourable work, is the only apology which I can offer for addressing one to whom I am personally a stranger.

I have reason to believe that there are some who almost envy your position however uncomfortable it may be for a short time, I have looked upon the whole occurrence connected with Mr Wheeler and his slaves, as prefiguring a speedy and final issue of the question, "Are the Africans the only slaves on our soil?" The great representative of his people only finished the freedom, so much desired by descending into the prison house of death in their name, under foul imputations and gross perversion of judgement and justice, and may not the black race hail the imprisonment of a white representative, as one who shall break the fetters and open the prison house.

You are in some respects as the prophet and his servant at Bethan surrounded by a blind vindictive host who could not see the horses & chariots of fire which fill the Mountain, or as one entering a dark tunnel loses sight of his friends, ere he has time to realise his position is ushered into the light amid friends, whose fellowship is enhanced by the temporary gloom.

I exhort you to endure as seeing him who is invisible, be not daunted by a corrupt judiciary it is necessary, to complete glory of a patriot martyr forgive the poor mistaken servile volunteer who is the immediate cause of oppression, commit your way to the just God he will bring it to pass and display your judgement like noontide

The most brief Autograph which you may find opportunity to peruse would be cherished and looked on with unfeigned interest by many who may never have the gratification to hear you speak, I never beheld the face of a Negro until I was over 20 years old but was familiar with their wrongs from early childhood, and it is a lamentable fact that what is call'd "The Church" is deep in the guilt

Henry Ferguson
13. Wall St.

158.1.R

10th Mo 13th 1835.

My dear friend
Pulmonore.

Absence and illness and a great press of care have prevented me seeing thee, but I do not forget thee in any waking hour, nor do I allow others to do so.

A friend of ours, from Boston, Miss Ellen Tarr, who goes to spend the winter with D Bailey at Washington wishes to see thee and is the bearer of this, with another friend and two of my children.

Rebecca has gone to the Ohio Convention. Keep in good heart the world is watching thee and Freedom is preparing thy triumph
ever
Rush

161.1.R

To Passmore Williamson.
from a friend.

When first the sun gleams on grey Bunkers pile,
Dim twilight shrouds the misty vale below,
And still its peak returns his latest smile,
In roscate glow.

Thus shine the glorious deeds of martyrs gone,
Earliest and brightest on the page of fame,
Time may destroy their monumental stone,
But not their name.

All who for freedom live, or bleed, or die,
In noble daring of tyrannic sway,
Pass not unnoticed to their rest on high,
In endless day.

The sympathetic word - the heart humane -
The unflinching courage for the trembling slave,
Appeal not to the heavens for strength, in vain,
To aid the brave.

Who'er impelled by love of human-kind,
Bids the sad bondsman breathe a freer air,
And from the long-untaught, benighted mind,
Its shackles tear;

Oft tho' his tears in secret paths be strown,
Shall reap the thanks of myriads yet unborn,
While the oppressor's name shall live alone
In endless scorn.

Bear on then, sufferer! gird thee for the fight!
Tho' all the powers of darkness may assail,

1611.V
Tho' fierce the contest between might and right,
Truth shall prevail.

What tho' immersed, thy body waste away,
Deprived of light and air, to mortals given,
Canst thou not see amid thy twilight day,
A gleam of heaven?

Far happier thou than he who placed thee there
The unjust judge, to sense - to reason blind -
Thy soul is peaceful - he must ever bear
A tortured mind.

The heart that bleeds for the oppressed in chains,
Shall ever beat in unison with thine,
Long as our love for fellow men, retains
A spark divine

And they who cared not for the vile decree
That fain would drive out freedom from our sight,
Shall, when they know what bonds now fetter thee
Maintain the right.

The hallowed spirit of the pilgrim band,
Of friends - of home, bereft, for conscience' sake,
May soon in startling echoes through the land
A nation wake.

God keep thee in thy noble purpose, then!
The tyrant's claim presumptuous to deny,
Or, if the voice of truth be heard in vain,
In prison, die.

Firm as the rock that breaks the angry wave,
And rears its head above the tempest's strife,
Be thou, the friend of freedom and the slave,
In death or life.

161.2.R



John Collins

Boston

17...

Boston, Mass. Oct. 13th 1855.

Palmere Williamson.

My suffering Brother,

It is possible that you may recollect my name as the originator and agent of the New England Anti-Nebraska Clerical Memorial, the presentation of which excited so remarkable a debate in the Senate of the Nation. I am a Congregational Clergyman of this City, and one of the Editors of the Congregationalist newspaper, which, with the New York Independent, has spoken already with all its might against the atrocity of which you are the victim. I intrude upon your notice only because I feel that an honest expression of the deep sympathy which fills my heart may compensate for the time which it will take you to read this. Be assured, my dear Sir, that you are

widely remembered in the affections
 and prayers of the good people of
 Massachusetts. We remember you
 when we kneel at our family
 altars, and when we stand before
 the Lord in our "great congregations".
 And we believe that, if you have
 grace to be faithful to the noble
 spirit of that letter which you
 addressed, on the 29th ult. to a
 gentleman of New York City, which
 was published in the Columns of the
Tribune, you will be the means of
 accomplishing an incalculable good
 for our nation. Great and fundamental
 principles are at stake, and we believe
 God has chosen you to be their champion
 though suffering. May he sustain &
 greatly comfort and bless you and
 your family, and make you the moral
 hero of your generation, and by your right arm
 inflict a fatal blow upon despotism among
 us. affectionately & most truly yours,
Henry M. Dexter.

165. V. P.



Lynn Oct. 17. 1855.

Lassmore Williamson Esqr

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the Republicans of Lynn the Resolves recorded below was unammously passed as the sense of audience, and a copy of the same was ordered to be transmitted to you. Permit us also to tender our personal sympathy for your loss of liberty as well as our congratulations at the noble station you occupy, so infinitely far above your "ine just judge"

W. T. Saper Chairman
 H. Mudge Secretary.

Resolved,

That we regard the imprisonment of Lassmore Williamson as a high handed act of injustice, and a contemptible cringing to the slave power; that we honor his unshaking integrity & firmness, and extend to him our sympathy

and best wishes for the triumph of that
cause in which he so nobly suffers,

166.1.2

Resolved, That this Convention
 seizes the opportunity of expressing to
 wards Passmore Williamson, their
 sincere admiration for his fidelity to
 principles, and his heroic devotion to the
 cause of freedom, and they beg him to
 accept for himself and his injured
 and bereaved family assurance of their
 deepest and most heart-felt sympathy.

Resolved - That Mr. Williamson, by his
 promptness on this, as on all occasions
 when called upon to fly to the aid of
 the slave when striving for his freedom,
 has entitled himself to the highest re-
 gard and warmest admiration of every
 man who has a heart to appreciate the
 value of freedom or despise the chains
 of oppression -

From the National Convention of Colored persons
 by their Comtee, Robt Harris & others - October 18th 55.



W
 Trenton N.J. Oct 20th 55

My Brother,
 I write to congratulate you because you are persecuted for righteousness sake, I am glad you are deprived of your liberty, with one of the speakers at a late meeting in your City I can say I am glad slavery has laid its hateful paw on a free, white, male citizen, of pure blood,

You are a hero, you are a highly favoured man, it has been given to you to help fill out this picture of slavery and to throw a gleam of light so that others may see its hideous deformity,

I have admired your conduct in this affair from its very commencement until the present time, I wish I could come and see you but my time is not my own and I cannot, but I can do the next best thing I can write and tell you that there are hearts beating in prison with yours, even in this dark corner, we have a few real true ultra disunion men and women here, and there are indications of a growing antislavery sentiment pervading this very conservative community,

We have never had an anti-slavery meeting here that I know of, but I have been inspired to love freedom and hate slavery by listening to the spirit stirring songs of our beloved brothers the Hutchinsons, blessed men that they are, so full of natural goodness, I should hardly be a worthy descendant of ancestors who suffered deprivation and death by the Revolutionary war had I not a spirit opposed to the infernalism of slavery,

I am for disunion, I have proclaimed it by dismissing from my friendship, my former "Pastor!" the man who "breaks the bread of life" to the 2nd Presbyterian church here, I heard him proclaim from his pulpit that slavery was a "God ordained institution" and I think I never was so thoroughly indignant upon any occasion during the term of my natural life as I was that evening when I sat and listened to that bigoted miscreant proclaiming his infamous sophistries, I left the house in disgust, and a month afterwards when I was recovered enough to controll myself completely, then I wrote the Rev Mr _____ a very cool and positive cessation of all further familiar intercourse untill such time as he shall repent and be converted. He seemed to take it hard, but I only acted out my spontaneity, and did what I felt to be my duty.

another friend and relative that I used to love I have had to part company with, she went from your city several years ago to Texas, she has married and now lives in Louisiana. her husband is a planter, and she writes, "I love my northern home, my birthplace, the place where my beloved dead repose, but I love my adopted home better, and I will defend her ~~the~~ institutions with my pen and my tongue, and would if need be arm my husband to go out and defend his rights with his life".

Another friend who was as dear as a brother to me, has written - in reply to some remarks that I made in reference to the case, that if he "had been in Wheeler's place" he "would have shot Williamson on the spot".

This individual lives in New York, he has been a miner in California for five years, and he has been in the habit of using his revolver quite freely, he is a confirmed democrat, and though he has been my most intimate of all friends yet we have had to separate on this question of slavery, it has been a sore trial to me to give him up, but I trust it will have the effect to bring him to a clearer perception of the truth as it is in freedom,

My oldest brother too is a pro slavery man, he went from Philadelphia, 17 years ago

to Galveston, Texas, it is to his pecuniary interest to be in favour of the institution of slavery and he says that "none but those who are not at all interested, are opposed to it," and further, that "men do not make sacrifices here at the north for their anti-slavery principles," I remind him of the loss of your freedom - because of your adherence to principle, and also of the fact that because I will not be a partaker with the orthodox church, in this sin, and thus, I have myself resigned the office of chorister, and given up a salary ---

I must close, heaven bless your my brother, I give you my heartfelt sympathy, for I am devoted to the cause in which you are suffering, and if this reaches you, and you care to answer it, I shall be glad to write you again, Keep up your courage, Horace Greely got out of the debtors prison in Paris, and that excellent man Albert Brisbane got out of the station house last week in N.Y. and the time will come when the doors will be opened to you, I am Yours affectionately, Herbert F. Gard.

15 South South Street

Oct. 20/55.

Passmore Williamson Esq.

Dear Sir,

I am one of those who, being compelled by my circumstances to work pretty hard for a living, can pay little attention to what is passing around. Lately, however, my mind has been much impressed with your case, — with the shameful (or rather shameless) treatment which you suffer, the noble, the Socratic firmness with which you maintain your integrity, and with the hardships which (under the most favorable view) you must, in your present position, be suffering.

I feel anxious to convey to you an expression of sympathy, which may perhaps derive some little value from the fact that I am ^{an} entire stranger, uninfluenced by any feelings or representations, except such as arise from the naked truth.

Allow me, while I thus express my sympathy,
to beg your acceptance of a little literary effort
which may perhaps fill up a few tedious mi-
nutes by its examination.

As I do not flatter myself that you
will read through my offering from beginning
to end, I have turned the leaf on the sides
in which I hope you may feel some in-
terest.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully
Louis S. J. Pees.

67
171

171.1.R

New York October 22^o 1855

Dear Sir

I am induced to write to you because of my great sympathy for you in Bonds as a Man and Brother.

The Judge who it seems has had it in his power to incarcerate you in Prison for the Crime will forever be the Mark at which all good Men will point the finger of scorn. My desire is that you will try the Wit of de Homine Replegiando as I am morally certain of its success in your case. The operation of the Wit is simple but sure, yet from the fact that it is not fully understood practically, some Lawyers then not use it.

The Sheriff is compelled by it to discharge you from Prison, on your giving Extraordinary Bail for your appearance in Court, when required, and I hereby propose that you give Ten Bondsmen, in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars each, or sufficient to make the total amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

If the Sheriff refuses to obey the Wit he then becomes personally liable for damages. You will perceive the reasonableness of the thing in the fact that the Amount of Bail tendered is sufficient guarantee for your appearance, to answer any accusations against you and consequently the Wit must be obeyed.

I saw the communication of Horace Greep Org of our City in the Tribune and called upon him to ascertain if the Wit would unquestionably apply in your case when he answered it most certainly would.

Now I have to remark that Mr Greep

171.1.R

is a Christian and for over twenty years has labored faithfully in the Anti Slavery cause. On the first Anniversary of British Emancipation in the West Indies he was engaged in the celebrated Dixon Slave case and used the *Habeas Corpus* successfully and since then in other cases involving personal liberty with like result. Mr. Depeu is Brother in Law to Ex Senator Dickinson of our State and also Niles of Connecticut. I have been on terms of intimacy with him about twenty years and know him to be a Man of Truth and eminent in his profession, is one of the most unassuming Men to be found and would not solicit employment in any case. On my own responsibility therefore I recommend you to retain him immediately and you will not regret so doing.

The active benevolence of Mr. Depeu is manifested in the fact that he intended to give you the benefit of his experience in the article above alluded to

very sincerely

Geo W Rose

Papmore Williamson Esq

New York October 22^d 1855

Dear Sir

I have written to you this day (attached herewith) to ask you to try the writ of Personal Replevin in order to free yourself from the Power of a Judge whose Name is already an abomination to the Civilized World.

Lawyers differ in opinion as well as Doctors and sometimes a Party already retained feel unwilling to try a process recommended by another but you must decide what is best under the circumstances.

Mr D would charge no fee if unsuccessful, I am confident, and you ought therefore to consult him by all the considerations of your personal convenience and in order to satisfy public opinion that you have tried every Legal means to thwart the power of your persecutor. If Mr D should be retained as Counsel he would no doubt advise you of other means which he can use to secure your honorable discharge from the commitment for Contempt of Court (which I have entire confidence in. As you are not personally acquainted with me I have to remark that I was born in this City in 1808. have always been in Mercantile business, have been one of the most active Anti Slavery Men for twenty two years and am personally known to a large number of the Friends of the Slave as the Secretary of the Political organization.

truly Yours
Geo W Rose

Prisoner Williamson Esq

Respected Friend
 I feel very desirous to promote thy
 release from prison, and therefore take the liberty of making
 a suggestion - hoping the whom proposed will not
 interfere with any thy just, conscientious feelings. I tho it is
 a small matter to say, yet I anxiously trust, it may
 answer the end of thy release - I suggest therefore
 an address to the Judge, as respectful as possible - as thy

Respected Judge - If you consider that I had
 three slaves under my contract, for the few moments, that
 I with my Black men, whom I engaged to go on Board the
 Boat with me, to do the business - then, I am free in these points
 to admit, I have been in error, - I assure the Judge that here after
 any case occurring, I will do the matter legally & fully, by obtaining
 from a Magistrate a Writ of Habeas Corpus, & serving it legally.
 I trust - I shall always here after be & myself amenable to
 the Law & constitution & which is now sincerely my wish...

thy
 -

P W

My soul is the rage just now of Party
 feeling in this matter, that I am
 sincerely under the delusion - that has not
 your advisers, at all times doct them.
 I think this has been the main of the delusion

10th 23 1831

Christ Amicus Lodge Office
 if there wishes to continue

175.1.R

Resolutions adopted by the Philadelphia Presbytery
of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Oct 23rd 1855.

Resolved 1. That the system of American
Slavery is, in its entire character, principles, claims
and issues, at war with the law of God, and utterly
subversive of the dearest and most precious, and
essential rights of man.

Resolved 2. That to hold or claim any human
being as property - and consequently liable to all its in-
cidents - as a thing to be bought and sold, and used
for the owner's benefit, as slaveholders do, is a sin of the
blackest hue, and should be regarded as a crime to be
punished by the judges.

Resolved 3. That slaveholding admits of no apology
and that those churches and ministers that give their
countenance to this sin, by admitting slaveholders to
memberships, and by refusing to testify openly and con-
-stantly against their iniquity, are not only recreant to
the benignant teachings and spirit of the Gospel and
of its blessed Author, but also to the claims of our com-
-mon humanity, and deserve the high condemnation

of the friends of Christ, of the Scriptures and of man

Resolved 4. That the developments of American Slavery in the Kansas outrages, committed pursuant to a determined purpose to override all justice, and even consistency, in establishing its power the efforts to extend the land of Slavery over the Free States, by allowing the transit of slaveholders with their slaves and the iniquitous consignment by a Federal judge of Passmore Williamson to prison, where he still lies - for no crime either against God or man - all show, as with the clearness of noonday light, the slaveholding character of the nation, and confirm us in our determination to give no active support or conscientious submission or allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, which we hold to be a slaveholding instrument.

Resolved 5. That this Presbytery expresses its deepest sympathy with Mr Williamson in his severe trial, and its conviction that the enormous wrongs which he is enduring, will be made in the providence of Jesus Christ - the King of nations

subservient at last in some way to the advancement of the interests of truth and righteousness, and our desire and prayer that he may be sustained by a Divine hand in his, to him honorable prison-house.

Boston - October 25th / 1855 -

To Mr. Passmore ^{or} Williamson,
a Prisoner in Moyamensing Prison,
Friend & Brother,

We address you
on the part of the Trustees of the Million Free-
dom Fund of Massachusetts.

We extend to you the hand of friend-
ship. We congratulate you upon the high &
noble mission unto which you are called by
Providence; & upon the manner in which you
have thus far fulfilled it.

Any expressions of pity & sorrow would be ut-
terly unsuitable to you; they are due rather to
your persecutor, of whom has fallen the heav-
iest infliction which man can undergo - that
of being used as the instrument for perpetrat-
ing outrage & wrong.

If we doubted your steadfast courage to perse-
vere in a new path of duty, though it were
unmarked by any human foot-print we might
point to the example of holy men & brave patri-
ots who have refused to bow even to idols or ty-
rants, - for history is full of such. They man-
ifest at once the meanness & the greatness of hu-

snarling.

Your case will be a new example.

The Swiss hero would not make obeisance to a cap, because he would not acknowledge a tyrant's rule; - you will not bow down to a soiled ermine, because you will not make lying admission of the right of a misguided Judge; & your name shall be joined with William Tell's, as Kane's shall with Sessler.

In one respect your action is the noblest, for resistance to moral, is greater than resistance to physical tyranny. You are tempted to use a lie, as a key to your prison door, but you hurl it back to its father.

We need not, then, adjure you, as we should a weaker man, to bear constantly in mind that you are the representative of a principle so high & precious that your comfort & your life - or the comfort & life even of a thousand men are as nothing beside it. We know that you will stand steadfast, even unto death if need be.

The defender of true honor, you will not be outdone by the tens of thousands who are, even now, battling & dying for false honor. It is not, then, so much to strengthen your heart, as your hands, that we address you, and seek to know if by material aid we can help to sustain, in your neighborhood the good cause of which you are now the Standard ^{bearer.}

~~Dear~~ We know not your face, but we know
your soul. We salute you with respect & love,
& we pray God to have you in his holy keeping.

And the Minutes,

S. G. Howe.
Chairman

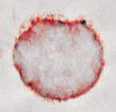
James M. Stone
Sec.

Papmore Williamson



Miss Williamson
Messrs Messrs
Philadelphia
Penn.

1864.



179.1.R

Bangor Me. Oct 26. 1835

To Papenus Williams

Dear Sir

As Secretary of the Penobscot Association of Universalists, I am directed to communicate the following resolutions & you which were passed at their last meeting held this present month in East Eddington.

Resolved, that we consider Slavery a moral, social & physical evil & utter our renewed protest against it in all its forms.

Resolved, that in the Fugitive Slave Bill, the Nebraska Bill, & all other schemes to further its aims, especially in the atrocities practiced in Kansas, we see proofs that the Slave Power is unprincipled & reckless in its measures & alarming in its demands & must be resisted, not only until it ceases to extend its sway, but until the shackles fall from every limb & the full rights of every man, woman & child in the land are avowed by the Church & acknowledged by the State.

Resolved that we tender to Papenus Williams, now confined in a Pennsylvania Prison

for doing a humane & legal act, our deepest sympathy & congratulate him that he has been accounted worthy to suffer for righteousness' sake.

In performing my duty as above indicated allow me to express my personal sympathy for you in your present privations & sufferings. For doing a right deed the Slave Power brings down its oppressive hand upon you, & through a perverted & supple judge, is determined to make you realise its might. Such a measure of high handed tyranny - such an invasion of civil rights, would have alarmed our fathers & certainly ought to make the blood tingle in our veins & arouse our most earnest protest & action. It is really fearful to see the barriers of freedom broken down one after another; to see justice smitten in our very presence & law trampled under the feet of the oppressor.

Judge Kane's decision is only another step toward that general subversion of law, justice & charity which slavery is seeking. The end is not yet. Greater assaults upon freedom are to follow.

How long you or any Pennsylvanian is to be degraded by your imprisonment is uncertain.

But whether the time be long or short may
 you be cheered by the smiles of an approv-
 ing Conscience & sustained by confidence in
 Him who can make the walls of a dun-
 geon brighter than a palace & can so control
 the wrath of man as to increase His power.
 Ay let us hope that the oppression now
 heaped upon you may help quicken
 the public conscience & arouse our slum-
 bering sense of justice so that our people
 shall arise in their might & demand
 truth instead of a lie, & Right instead of
 wrong. May the day soon come ^{when} ^{the}
 "Officers shall be peace & our Extractors right-
 eousness: when violence shall no more be
 heard in our land, wasting nor destruction
 within our borders: but our walls shall be
 called Salvation & our gates Praise."

Very Truly
 Your Obedt Servant
 A. B. Allen.

New Castle Lawrence Co P^o Oct 1855;

My Dear Sir

I avail myself of my old acquaintance with, and confidence in, you to send to Popmae Williamson certain Resolutions of sympathy just passed by the Synod of which I am a member. I have been entrusted with the papers to send to Mr Williamson this year and I know you will cheerfully comply with my request to do so. If you please to publish the paper in the "Standard" you are at liberty to take a copy of the same. Any influence at all in behalf of the prisoner & against Judge Kave ought to be felt.

Sincerely & respectfully yours

Arthur M. Bradwell

J. M. McKim

P. S. Should you desire the accompanying Resolutions in person I desire you to mention to Mr Williamson with kindness the name of Mr McKim of Allegheny County.

New Castle P. 27. Oct 1855

To Popmae Williams

My Dear Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you the subjoined Resolutions of Sympathy & of testimony passed with entire unanimity by the Religious body whose organ I am. In doing so I beg leave to assure you that such is our feeling on the subject of your unlawful & unconstitutional imprisonment that we have the heart to demolish the walls of Moyamensing Prisons and give you your stolen liberty. However, let me congratulate you that your wholly treatment by Judge Kane is arousing a feeling which could nowhere else have been produced, & which will I doubt not urge forward the great Cause of Human Liberty in which we are engaged as fellow laborers & sufferers.

With assurances of my own & the Sympathy of thousands of others with whom I wish I remain Yours

J. R. Gibson

Stated Clerk

The Synod of the Free Presbyterian Church of the U. S. in Session at New Castle Penn^a, in the exercise of its right to express opinions on questions affecting the interests of Humanity, give utterance to the following Resolutions:-

I That the imprisonment of Popmae Williams in the Moyamensing Prisons at Philadelphia, by a United States District Judge, for an

To Professor Will Anderson
 Memorandum
 Philadelphia

John B. Williams
 Clerk

J. H. Johnson
 John Clark

Alexander
 John B. Williams
 Clerk

Boston Oct 29th 1861.—

Friend Passmore Williamson,

I am in a few months to publish a memoir of my late husband (Theodore Parker) which has been for the most part written by Rev. John Wils, a Unitarian Clergyman of the most liberal sort. This memoir will be illustrated from Theodore's note books, letters, journals and other manuscripts: you will easily recognize the importance of making collections of his correspondence, thereby giving to the world, the record of the thoughts of so brave & good a man, by extracts from the most important & striking. In looking over his letters, I find a few from yourself

which led me to think you might have some
 from him; I therefore write to you, to ask of
 you the favor, to send me what you may
 have of his, allowing me to use what Mr
 Wils may desire and you be willing should
 be used; if there should be nothing in them
 suitable to publish, they would be very
 precious to me to copy and preserve for my
 own reading. If you send me any letters,
 I shall be bound by any conditions as to
 their use that you may see fit to impose,

I will keep safely the originals, and
 return them to you shortly, as also your
 own letters, as soon as I have time, to
 assort & return them ^{large correspondence} to the various writers.

Any package sent to me by mail to
 No 1 Eyster Place will not fail to reach
 me, and will be thankfully received.

I am respectfully yours
 L. D. Parker.

Resolutions passed at a Committee Meeting of the Leeds
Anti-slavery Association, September 25th, 1855.

I.—THAT this Committee feels called upon to record its deep regret at the loss sustained to the Anti-slavery cause, by the decease of their late highly-esteemed friend, J. B. ESTLIN, Esq., of Bristol, so long known to many of us as the unwavering friend of the oppressed slave, labouring incessantly for the release of the down-trodden sons of Africa, whose rights he nobly advocated by voice and by his pen; by whose kind permission, and assisted by his liberality, our Association was enabled to issue a large edition of his admirable little treatise, *A Brief Notice of American Slavery*. Though the Anti-slavery cause has sustained an unspeakable loss in the removal of our valued friend from his earthly scene of activity, we rejoice in the belief that he now realizes the high reward of his labours.

II.—That we fully sympathize with Passmore Williamson in his present undeserved sufferings,—a prisoner in the common gaol at Philadelphia, for assisting a woman and her two children to assert their right of freedom, according to the laws of the Free (?) States. On the other hand, we feel bound to deprecate those iniquitous laws of the Free (?) States, which have led to the imprisonment of a man who is acquitted by God and his own conscience of having done any wrong, and which compel her judges to countenance and assist the owners and traffickers in flesh and blood.

III.—That the common newspaper being a most effective medium of circulating information, and of creating public opinion, and considering the extended opportunities now offered by the increase of newspaper issues consequent upon the removal of the stamp duty, that this Association, as a means of spreading widely Anti-slavery information and sentiment, print an occasional sheet of short Anti-slavery items, to be entitled *The Anti-slavery Pilot*; and forward the same gratuitously to newspaper editors, for their insertion as paragraphs. The papers to be printed about once in two months, under the direction of the Committee.

WILSON ARMISTEAD,

(Corresponding Secretary.)



Leeds 10mo 29. 1853.

My dear Friend

Passmore Williamson

It devolves upon me to forward thee a Resolution of sympathy passed at the last Com^{tee} meeting of our Leeds Antislavery Association, which I should have communicated earlier had I not waited for some private opportunity, which has not yet occurred. — I therefore conclude to enclose it with this, by next mail steamer to care of our mutual friend Saml. Miller M^r Kim, hoping it may reach thee duly through his hands.

In forwarding this Resolution, I cannot refrain from expressing the shame & indignation I feel at the reproach cast upon our holy religion by the pandering of Churches & pulpits to a slaveholding policy, which compels them to become advocates & apologists for that which truly constitutes the "sum of all villainies". — Oh! the hypocrisy

of those who teach that the buying & selling, the
bartering of Christ's image for gold is a thing or-
dained & approved of God.

Thanks be to God there are preserved some
who are faithful to withstand these impious as-
sertions, & boldly to proclaim the rights of their
outraged & bleeding fellowmen, esteeming the reproach-
es & persecutions they have to encounter, better
than all the treasures this world can afford.

As such an one, dear friend, do we honour thee,
& deeply sympathise with thee in thy present po-
sition, assuring thee that thy conduct through-
out, as far as we have been able to gather it
from printed reports & private letters meets with
our ~~full~~ entire approbation. Our prayers are
for thee, daily, that thou mayst be strengthened & pre-
served faithful in this testimony which thou hast

been called to bear by Him who identifies himself
the friend of the poor, the wretched, & the outcast, & who
has declared that he who giveth to these but a
cup of cold water in His name shall not lose his
reward. —

Continue steadfast & unmoveable; faithful
unto the end, whenever, or whatever it may be &
great shall be thy reward in Heaven.

Believe me

Thy friend very truly

Wilson Armistead

Corresponding Secy.

of Leeds & Anti-Slavery Society

P.S. Although they are not mentioned, we do not
forget in our sympathies thy dear aged father, thy
wife, & family. — May you all be sustained in
patience, when you are reviled, reviling not again;
counting it an honour to be called upon to suf-
fer for Christ, who is being crucified afresh in you
& in the suffering Slave. —

The Fin, Philad & 10m 30. 1855

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Dear friend

Passmore Williamson - I trust the following extracts from two letters which I rec^d a few days since from England may not be unacceptable to thee. Anna W. Richardson, writing at a quiet sea-bathing village on the Cumberland Coast, says - "We are longing to hear further particulars of Passmore Williamson's case. It is indeed a hard one, and may well make you indignant, but I cannot but think that in some way he will be released before long. My beloved husband is sitting by my side - we have just come in from a nice walk - and without knowing what I was writing about, has suddenly remarked, 'What remarkable words those are - Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you' - 'it soon goes on' he added, to say, 'rejoice and be exceeding glad.' How opportune to the case of your suffering friend! May his solitary hours be thus gladdened!"

Josiah Foster writes - "This case of Passmore Williamson is a sad one - let us hope it will eventually be productive of good. He is an object of much sympathy."

My cousin Daniel Rhoads who resides in Centre County, Pa, mentions in a late letter that none of the men - about fifty in number - employed by himself and partners, attended the recent election because Passmore

Williamson's name was withdrawn from the ticket. He also says he has been surprised at the strong feeling manifested in that part of the country many of the people declaring their readiness to shoulder the rifle for the purpose of liberating Pannou Williamson. —

We cannot wonder that such feelings should be aroused by an act of tyranny and perverseness almost unparalleled in this country; yet we may hope for the eventual triumph of truth and justice through means more accordant with the meekness, patience and peaceableness characteristic of true Christianity.

Very truly thy friend

Samuel Phoads

PAID

Roscoe D. Garrison

Philadelphia

P.M.



ANNUAL MESSAGE

OF THE

GOVERNOR

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT,



OCTOBER, 1855.



MONTPELIER:

E. P. WALTON, JR., PRINTER.

1855.

MESSAGE.

*Fellow Citizens of the Senate,
and House of Representatives :*

WE are assembled by constitutional requirement, and with renewed authority from the people, to execute in their behalf the highest ordinary functions of State Sovereignty. The duty again devolves upon us to consider the municipal laws and regulations under which we live, and if changes and improvements are clearly needed to secure, enlarge, and perpetuate their intended benefits, it is for us to devise and apply them. Many special and local interests also, if within the proper sphere of legislation, will doubtless demand investigation and action. And the sense of responsibility to our constituents, which the discharge of these duties must necessarily awaken, should strongly remind us of our obligations of adoration and gratitude to the infinite Creator and Preserver for all His mercies ; and especially for the general health and plenty by which the season is distinguished.

It is obvious that whatever tends to demoralize the people, to relax their industry, or dissipate the avails of it, must also tend to retard the general prosperity, and to diminish or destroy the happiness of individuals. And whenever the cause of such evils can rightfully be remov-