

Appendix 2

Minute of Germantown Friends, with Meeting Responses

A Minute Against Slavery, Addressed to Germantown Monthly Meeting, 1688.

This is to ye Monthly Meeting held at Richard Worrell's.

These are the reasons why we are against the traffick of men-body, as foloweth. Is there any that would be done or handled at this manner? viz., to be sold or made a slave for all the time of his life? How fearful and faint-hearted are many on sea, when they see a strange vessel, —being afraid it should be a Turk, and they should be taken, and sold for slaves into Turkey. Now what is this better done, as Turks doe? Yea, rather it is worse for them, which say they are Christians; for we hear that ^{ye} most part of such negers are brought hither against their will and consent, and that many of them are stolen. Now, ^{tho} they are black, we can not conceive there is more liberty to have them slaves, as it is to have other white ones. There is a saying that we shall doe to all men like as we will be done ourselves; making no difference of what generation, descent or colour they are. And those who steal or robb men, and those who buy or purchase them, are they not all alike? Here is liberty of conscience ^{wch} is right and reasonable; here ought to be liberty of ^{ye} body, except of evil-doers, ^{wch} is an other case. But to bring men hither, or to rob and sell them against their will, we stand against. In Europe there are many oppressed for conscience sake; and here there are those oppressed ^{wch} are of a black colour. And we who know than men must not comitt adultery, —some do committ adultery, in separating wives from their husbands and giving them to others; and some sell the children of these poor creatures to other men. Ah! doe consider will this thing, you who doe it, if you would be done at this manner? And if it is done according to Christianity? You surpass Holland and Germany in this thing. This makes an ill report in all those countries of Europe, where they hear of, that ^{ye} Quakers doe here handel men as they handel there ^{ye} cattle. And for that reason some have no mind or inclination to come hither. And who shall maintain this your cause, or pleid for it. Truly we can not do so, except you shall inform us better hereof, viz., that Christians have liberty to practise these things. Pray, what thing in the world can be done worse towards us, than if men should rob or steal us away, and sell us for slaves to strange countries; separating husbands from their wives and children. Being now that this is not done in the manner we would be done at therefore we contradict and are against this traffic of men-body. And we who profess that it is not lawful to steal, must, likewise, avoid to purchase such things as are stolen, but rather help to stop this robbing and stealing if possible. And such men ought to be delivered out of ^{ye} hands of ^{ye} robbers, and set free as well as in Europe. Then is Pennsylvania to have a good report, instead it hath now a bad one for this sake in other countries. Especially whereas ^{ye} Europeans are desirous to know in what manner ^{ye} Quakers doe rule in their province; —and most of them doe look upon us with an envious eye. But if this is done well, what shall we say is done evil?

If once these slaves (^{wch} they say are so wicked and stubborn men) should join themselves, —fight for their freedom, —and handel their masters and mastrisses as they did handel them before; will these masters and mastrisses take the sword at hand and warr against these poor slaves, licke, we are able to believe, some will not refuse to doe; or have these negers not as much right to fight for their freedom, as you have to keep them slaves?

Now consider will this thing, if it is good or bad? And in case you find it to be good to handle these blacks at that manner, we desire and require you hereby lovingly, that you may inform us herein, which at this time never was done, viz., that Christians have such a liberty to do so. To the end we shall be satisfied in this point, and satisfie likewise our good friends and acquaintances in our natif country, to whose it is a terror, or fairful thing, that men should be handeld so in Pennsylvania.

This is from our meeting at Germantown, held ^{ye}18 of the 2 month, 1688, to be delivered to the Monthly Meeting at Richard Worrell's.

Garret henderich

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Francis daniell Pastorius

Abraham up Den graef

Monthly Meeting Response:

At our Monthly Meeting at Dublin, ^{ye} 30 - 2 mo., 1688, we have inspected ^{ye} matter, above mentioned, and considered of it, we find it so weighty that we think it not expedient for us to meddle with it here, but do rather commit it to ^{ye} consideration of ^{ye} Quarterly Meeting; ^{ye} tenor of it being nearly related to ^{ye} Truth. On behalf of ^{ye} Monthly Meeting.

Signed, P. Jo. Hart.

Quarterly Meeting Response:

This, above mentioned, was read in our Quarterly Meeting at Philadelphia, the 4 of ^{ye} 4th mo. '88, and was from thence recommended to the Yearly Meeting, and the above said Derick, and the other two mentioned therein, to present the same to ^{ye} above said meeting, it being a thing of too great a weight for this meeting to determine.

Signed by order of ^{ye} meeting,

Anthony Morris.

Yearly Meeting Response:

[At a yearly meeting held at Burlington the 5th day of the 7th month, 1688.]

A Paper being here presented by some German Friends Concerning the Lawfulness and Unlawfulness of Buying and keeping Negroes, It was adjusted not to be so proper for this Meeting to give a Positive Judgment in the case, It having so General a Relation to many other Parts, and therefore at present they forbear It.

Sources: www.qhpress.org/texts/oldqwhp/as-1688.htm. Joseph Walton, ed., *Incidentals Illustrating the Doctrines and History of the Society of Friends* (Philadelphia: Friends' Book Store, 1897). See also J. S. Hartzler and Daniel Kauffman, eds., *Mennonite Church History* (Scottsdale, PA: Mennonite Book and Tract Society), 1905.

