The Liberator
Boston, Friday, September 11, 1857
Whole Number, 1392

Refuse of Oppression

Selections

From the New York Times

From the New York Tribune

From the American Anti-Slavery Society
THE LIBERATOR.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 31, 1857.

Mr. J. P. T. Brey of New Hampshire.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

In the interest of the rights of an adopted state, and in the paramount interest of the whole country, I am constrained to address you on the subject of slavery. I am not one of those who believe that the Constitution of the United States was intended to establish slavery as a part of our national system; but I am one of those who believe that the Constitution of the United States was intended to protect the rights of freemen, and that it is the duty of every citizen to support the Constitution, and to resist all attempts to destroy the rights of freemen.

Our Constitution was established by a people who were free, and who believed in the rights of freemen. They believed in the rights of free men to own property, and to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They believed in the rights of free men to vote, and to be governed by their own representatives. They believed in the rights of free men to travel, and to engage in commerce. They believed in the rights of free men to worship according to their own consciences. They believed in the rights of free men to be free, and to enjoy the privileges of citizenship.

But what are the rights of the American people, if not the rights of freemen? What is the Constitution of the United States, if not a charter of liberty for all the people of the United States? What is the government of the United States, if not a government for the protection of the rights of freemen? What is the President of the United States, if not the chief executive of the government, charged with the duty of enforcing the Constitution, and guarding the rights of freemen?

If the Constitution of the United States was intended to establish slavery as a part of our national system, it is the duty of every citizen to resist all attempts to destroy the rights of freemen. If the Constitution of the United States was intended to protect the rights of freemen, it is the duty of every citizen to support the Constitution, and to resist all attempts to destroy the rights of freemen.

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